# The Outlook

Volume 144 December 22, 1926 Number 17

## The House Acts and the Wets are Routed

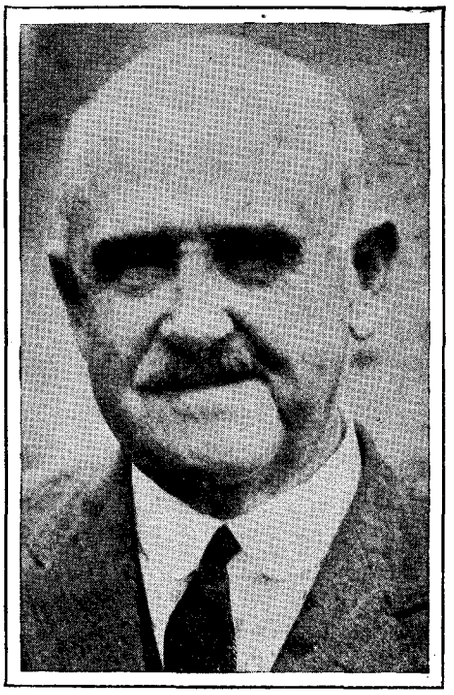
WHATEVER the House of Representatives may do or leave undone later, the fact stands to its credit that it got down to business almost as if it had not recessed from summer to winter. The first of the big appropriation bills, that providing for expenditures in the Treasury Department and the Post Office Department, was passed almost as promptly as a town council could have appropriated a hundred dollars for the town clerk's quarterly salary. And this prompt action was achieved despite a bitter wet-dry row.

It was the item of $30,000,000 for prohibition enforcement that the wets made their first point of attack. Though Cramton, of Michigan, and Gallivan, of Massachusetts, took part in the row, the bitterness was mainly between Hill, of Maryland, and Upshaw, of Georgia, one probably the most unreasoning wet and the other probably the most fanatical dry in Congress. Their manifestations of zeal will become private at the end of this session, the voters of Maryland and Georgia having decided to keep them at home for a while. The appropriation was made practically as planned.

The House also passed quite promptly the Judicial Salaries Bill, which brings to a successful conclusion the long fight made by the American Bar Association to secure more adequate salaries for all Federal judges. The bill passed the Senate at the last session, and will undoubtedly be signed by the President. All judges of Federal courts, from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States down to the judges of district courts, will receive substantial increases in pay. Despite the length of time that was required to secure this legislation, there was no considerable opposition to it. Only thirty-nine Representatives voted against it.

## The Quarrel Over the Surplus

PERHAPS the most notable achievement toward expediting business in the House was accomplished, not by the House itself, but by the Ways and Means Committee. This Committee, by a vote of all Republican members, determined that there should be no effort at tax legislation at this session. All revenue bills were tabled, including the Administration tax credit measure and the Democratic Tax Reduction Bill.



(C) Keystone

**William Brown McKinley**
**1856–1926**

The Treasury surplus of approximately $380,000,000 will be applied, automatically, to debt reduction; for, while it is possible that the Democratic organization may force the Tax Reduction Bill out of Committee, there is no likelihood of any further effort by the Administration to secure tax credit legislation. President Coolidge told Congress in his Message that, while he preferred the tax credit plan of disposing of the surplus, he left it to the discretion of Congress whether this or the debt reduction plan should be followed.

The Democratic members of the Ways and Means Committee opposed the motion to table tax measures because they want to get their tax reduction measure before the House. Both Representative Garner, of Texas, ranking Democratic member of the Committee, and Representative Garrett, of Tennessee, minority leader in the House, have said that all parliamentary means will be used to outmaneuver the Republicans and bring the bill out of Committee. They assert that the condition of the Treasury amply justifies a further reduction of taxes now. The argument that there may be no surplus next year is contradicted, they say, by Secretary Mellon's statement in his annual report that the present strong tide of prosperity will not ebb.

Each side believes that there is more politics than finance in the position of the other. The Republicans are sure that the Democrats are pressing their tax reduction measure at this time purely in the hope of political advantage, while the Democrats believe that the Republicans oppose reducing taxes now solely because they want to be able to reduce them in 1927, "just before election," as Mr. Garner said.

## Vare, Smith, and Gould

THE Senate's talk has been largely of "slush Senators." Circumstances have largely made the Senate's volubility at this time excusable. Perhaps the Senate of the Sixty-ninth Congress might not have left to the Senate of the Seventieth Congress the task of investigating the qualifications of its own members, even if no question had arisen which properly concerned the Senate as at present constituted. Such questions, however, have arisen, and some of them are extremely complex.

The question of improper methods in securing nomination or election or both no longer applies merely to Senator-elect Vare, of Pennsylvania, and Senator-elect Smith, of Illinois. It was raised as to Senator Gould, elected from Maine to fill out an unexpired term, and therefore a member of the present Congress, and, though somewhat irregularly, as to General L. D. Tyson, elected a Senator from Tennessee in 1924 and a member of the present Congress from the beginning. It was also raised in a new form as to Colonel Smith by the death on December 7 of Senator William B. McKinley and the supposed probability that Governor Small would appoint Colonel Smith to fill out the unexpired term.

For six years Mr. McKinley served in



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Congress; was manager of President Taft's disastrous campaign for re-election in 1912, when he himself was defeated for Congress; then served for six years more in Congress (of which he was one of the richest members); and concluded his public career by his term in the Senate, for which he failed of renomination.

Almost as soon as the session opened Senator Walsh, of Montana, obtained the adoption of a resolution for an investigation of the methods by which Senator Gould secured his election. He obtained it without much opposition, and with the affirmative vote of Mr. Gould himself.

A little later Senator Dill, of Washington, introduced resolutions demanding that the credentials of William S. Vare and Frank L. Smith be refused during this session. Senator Dill admitted that the present membership of the Senate could not decide whether or not Mr. Vare and Colonel Smith should be seated. He admitted, further, that, so far as he knew, there was no precedent for his resolutions. But he said that the acceptance as valid by the present membership of the Senate of the credentials of Vare and Smith would constitute a dangerous precedent, and that Vare and Smith should be disqualified as Senators-elect "from exercising the privileges to which Senators-elect whose credentials are not so tainted are ordinarily entitled."

## Smith and Tyson

Senator Dill's resolutions to refuse credentials to Vare and Smith were introduced largely, it was generally believed, because of the probability that Smith would be appointed to fill out the unexpired term of the late Senator McKinley. While the question as to seating Smith as appointed to fill out an unexpired term would not be identical with that as to seating him as elected in consequence of a nomination secured by questionable methods, the feeling has been somewhat general that some advantage would accrue, not alone to Smith, but to Vare as well, by having Smith serve out the unexpired term of McKinley, and that the Dill move was largely for the purpose of stalling off such a possibility.

All of this made opportunity for Senatorial talk, some of it on the floor, much of it in the cloak-rooms and elsewhere. Meanwhile, the Democrats were considering contesting, not the nomination, but the election of Mr. Vare in an effort to seat his Democratic opponent, W. B. Wilson. The plan was finally abandoned, but it occupied the attention of a number of Democratic Senators during the first week of the session.

Along with all of this came the charge that Senator Tyson, of Tennessee, spent $1,800,000 to secure his nomination in 1924. The charge came mainly on the authority of John R. Neal, a lawyer and perennial candidate for Governor in Tennessee, who gained Nation-wide publicity as chief counsel for Scopes in the anti-evolution trial. General Tyson is a man of some wealth who, it has always been understood, defrayed his own campaign expenses. He is a West Point graduate who spent the early part of his life in the Regular Army, then engaged in manufacturing for some years, and reentered the Army at the time of the World War, serving with the rank of Major-General. He was never suspected of having quite as much money as he is now charged with having spent to secure his nomination. Not much is likely to come of the charge, but it has added something to the Senate excitement.

## Orthodox Insurgents

Senator Frazier, of North Dakota, the last left in the Senate of the four insurgents who were read out of the Republican Party two years ago, is again a Republican in good and regular standing, though the quality of his insurgency, to outward appearance, has not changed. The exigencies of Republican organization, on the other hand, have changed.

The Senate Committee on Committees has voted to restore Senator Frazier to his old standing as a Republican and to assign him to standing committees as such. He will resume his old place on the Indian Affairs Committee and will become its Chairman upon the retirement in March of Senator Harreld, of Oklahoma.

Of the four Senators who were read out of the party, two are dead, La Follette and Ladd. The fourth, Brookhart, of Iowa, was ousted from the Senate, but has since been nominated and elected as a Republican, and will return to the Senate in March. The fact that the Republicans of Iowa nominated and elected him as a Republican will probably operate to give him regular standing without the necessity for such action as was taken with regard to Senator Frazier.

Meanwhile, several important committee positions will have gone to Senators who, while they have never been expelled from the party, have been regarded as somewhat radical and irregular. Senator Norris, of Nebraska, is to become Chairman of the Judiciary Committee in place of the late Senator Cummins; and Senator McNary, of Oregon, one of the authors of the McNary-Haugen Bill, will become Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture. These assignments already have been approved by the Committee on Committees.

## Mellon on Prosperity

How long prosperity will last is the most important question in the minds of even more citizens than the large portion who gain their livelihood directly from industry and commerce. Strangely, as it would seem, the continued existence of generally satisfactory business conditions causes the question to be asked with increasing solicitude, even when confidence is uppermost. But the present business generation has been thoroughly imbued with the knowledge that for every action comes a reaction.

Therefore the prediction in Secretary Mellon's annual report, that the country may expect "another satisfactory year," meets with hopeful incredulity on the part of business men who were surprised when prosperity did not begin to wane last summer, or even before.

Of course, the Secretary of the Treasury has his good reasons for the prediction; and it is not likely that they are political. Nineteen hundred and twenty-seven will probably be "satisfactory" without producing such a fabulously large National income as 1926. But against the premonition caused by a low point in business every seven years since 1907 on the graph of National prosperity, and despite unfavorable conditions or promise in cotton and agriculture and building, business analysts can find none of the warning signals that ordinarily precede consequential depression, and they can see no possibility of anything approaching panic conditions while the United States remains so abundantly supplied with gold.

That business shall prosper and lag, approximately with the fluctuation of a cycle, is inevitable while men's stability and judgment shall be less than infallible. But the momentum of America's prosperity—based on "the broadness of

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# Here in the Parliament

*(3 Henry VI, Act I, Scene 1)*

*Ireland in the Columbus (Ohio) Evening Dispatch*

U. S. SENATE
THERE'S A FEELING AROUND HERE THAT YOU MIGHT TRACK THE PLACE UP
SENATOR-ELECT SMITH OF ILLINOIS
SENATOR-ELECT VARE OF PENNSYLVANIA

**Sometimes it's hard to remove the axle grease after you swim the Channel**

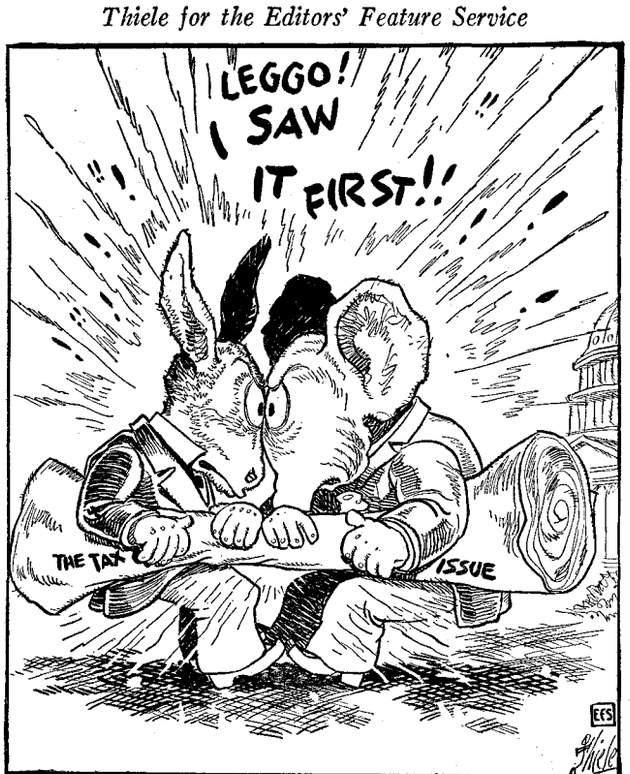
From Henry H. Metters, Columbus, Ohio

*Talburt*

**Stuck !**

From Mildred M. Davis, Whitewood, S. D.

*Thiele for the Editors' Feature Service*

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**Just before the battle, mother !**

*Shoemaker in the Chicago Daily News*

**Just before Christmas—the acid test**

From P. P. Udre, Granite City, Ill.

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its base" domestically, as Mr. Mellon called it, and upon the economic progress of Europe, and aided by improving business policies—apparently means that the usual extreme reaction will be avoided.

## Wilson's Screen Biography

RECALLING vivid war-time impulses, a motion-picture memorial of Woodrow Wilson, "more living than a statue," has been seen by half a million people as it has worked its way eastward during the past thirty-two months, from California, through ten States, to its first New York showing, its 734th performance. The Woodrow Wilson Foundation means to show the memorial "daily, somewhere, forever."

We have become accustomed to the highly dramatic assurance that future generations may see the actions and hear the voices of the notable figures of history now in the making by means of motion pictures and phonograph reproductions. The memorial to President Wilson is the first major record of this kind to be shown. Public consciousness has undergone such varied experiences since 1921 as to make this skillful selection of news-reel pictures already seem historical rather than contemporary.

"The Real Wilson" brings back refreshingly—through the cloud of bitter controversy which separates the early Wilson from the present—the trim ex-professor concluding with a reminiscent smile a telephone conversation at his White House desk, or talking with dignified alertness to doughboys in France. It interpolates poignant battlefield scenes and views of Liberty Loan drives in America. It records the world power of the war President when he toured Europe triumphantly. It is important for its living views of contemporary figures —Roosevelt, Cardinal Mercier, Lloyd George, Clemenceau, the kings of Europe, Governor Coolidge.

The editing of the film seems less than worthy. But the actual pictures, and their continuity as a biography, form a distinguished first screen memorial.

## Honors of Peace

FOUR statesmen—respectively, American, English, French, and German —have just been honored with Nobel Peace Prizes. The prize for the year 1925 has been divided between Vice-President Dawes and Sir Austen Chamberlain; that for 1926 between Aristide Briand and Gustav Stresemann. Three of the recipients have been Foreign Ministers and have, says the Committee, worked efficiently for world peace in office. Equally valuable, it held, was Vice-President Dawes's contribution to peace, security, and the reconstruction of Europe in forwarding financial rehabilitation through the plan called by his name. Dr. Nansen in his address before the Nobel Institute said that the first light shed on the darkness was by the adoption of the Dawes Plan.

Almost simultaneously award was made to Elihu Root of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation Medal, and with it goes the sum of $25,000. This is the second time that this honor has been conferred; the first, in 1924, was to Viscount Cecil. The specific reason for this year's choice was succinctly stated by Mr. Norman Davis, President of the Foundation, as being in recognition of Mr. Root's "services to humanity and the cause of peace through justice in helping to create the Permanent Court of International Justice, popularly known as the World Court."

Thus the first award to an American of a prize established in honor of a Democratic President goes to a Republican statesman. Mr. Root, of course, has rendered other services toward amicable relations between nations; one of the most important was his part in the Hague Tribunal, of which he was a member, and in honor of which he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1912.

## The Dawes Plan Better than Expected

BOTH Germany's ability to pay reparations for the damages done in the war and the ability of the Allied nations to absorb her payments have "outrun the expectation of the experts." So reports S. Parker Gilbert, the American Agent-General for Reparation Payments, in his review of two years of operation of the experts' plan which was drafted by the Dawes Committee on German currency and finance.

Germany has made the payments required of her "punctually and loyally." Her currency has been stabilized, and investment funds have been pouring in from other countries—particularly the United States. In fact, the Agent-General has felt called upon to issue a quiet warning against over-enthusiastic flotation of German securities. He has declared that new capital has been coming in at a rate "exceeding ability to make advantageous use of it." Incidentally, at the same time it has been reported that some German municipalities have been so successful in securing loans that they have in turn become creditors and lent money for public works and utilities.

Even the reactionary and irreconcilable German Nationalists have begun to drop their opposition to the reparation program, in view of the change it has wrought in the situation of the country. Germany is feeling the benefit of her economic recovery. She is now entering upon the hardest test of her ability to pay.

Under the schedule of payments for the coming year, the surplus funds which the Government has accumulated during the earlier period of reconstruction will be used up. By a readjustment of two supplemental budgetary contributions of 250,000,000 gold marks for which the Dawes Plan would have called in the fourth and fifth years, a single advance supplemental contribution is to be accepted instead next year, the third year. That will raise the total payment next year from 1,200,000,000 gold marks to 1,500,000,000 gold marks. The following year it will jump to 1,750,000,000 gold marks; and in the fifth year it will reach the standard annual payment of 2,500,000,000 gold marks—or about $625,000,000. When that point is reached, we shall begin to see whether the Dawes Plan can continue to work. And the outcome then will have a vital bearing on the war-debt agreements with the United States.

The Agent-General's report gives reason to think that until that time Germany should be able to meet her obligations. But he points to the possible need for reconsideration of the whole question of international settlements. In the concluding section of his report he says that the plan tests the feasibility of reparations year by year by a program "extending in its application for a sufficient time to restore confidence and at the same time so framed as to facilitate a final and comprehensive agreement as to the problem of reparation and connected questions as soon as circumstances make this possible."

## Pashitch Dies in Action

NIKOLA PASHITCH was the political architect of Jugoslavia. The new state, officially known as the Kingdom

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of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, which has arisen in place of Serbia as a result of the war, was his dream. For twenty years, with few interruptions, he held the post of Premier. He died—at over eighty years of age—with his hand still on the helm, stricken with paralysis in the midst of a conference with the leaders of the Radical Party over the political crisis caused by the resignation of the Cabinet.

Born the son of an obscure merchant in a village near the Bulgarian frontier, he became associated in his youth with Russian Nihilists and founded the Radical Party—which then was all that the name implies. When he was elected a Deputy, the King refused to recognize the Parliament's choice of him as speaker. Later he had to flee the country to escape a death sentence for fomenting a revolution. He returned only when King Milan abdicated in favor of King Alexander. He became Premier in 1891. Yet later he was imprisoned for five years for conspiring against the King's life—a penalty which was later changed into banishment.

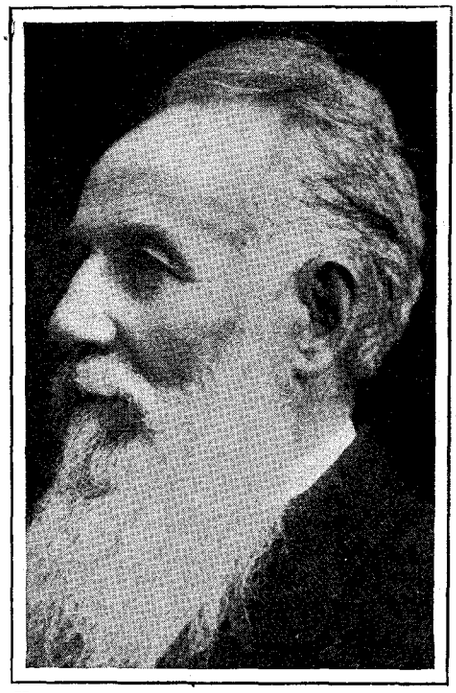
After the assassination of King Alexander in 1903, Pashitch helped to establish the present Karageorgevitch dynasty on the throne, becoming Premier in 1906. The Radical Party became actually conservative. Since then Serbia has passed through the Balkan Wars, heading the Balkan Alliance which Pashitch formed to defeat Turkey. She has emerged from the World War, which was begun over Pashitch's reply to the Austrian ultimatum in connection with the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand at Sarajevo. She is now the dominant partner in the tripartite Kingdom of Jugoslavia.

Pashitch died with his life-work completed beyond what probably could have been his hopes. It remains to be seen whether his successors can consolidate the achievements of the "Old Fox of the Balkans."

## Jugoslavia Faces Italy in the Balkans

THE death of Pashitch leaves Jugoslavia facing the sharpest test she has had since the war. The Radical Cabinet, headed by Uzonovitch, resigned in consequence of a threatening situation which has been created in the Balkans by Italy. Albania and Italy have signed a treaty by which Italy guarantees the economic and political status of Albania. Jugoslavia regards that action as a menace.

The resignation of the Cabinet at Belgrade undoubtedly was due also to some extent to the opposition of the radical Croatian peasant party, led by Stepan Raditch. This faction—centering in



Keystone

**Nikola Pashitch**
1846–1926

former Austrian territory—always has had republican and separatist tendencies, and Raditch has been a long-standing political antagonist of Pashitch. The movement headed by Raditch probably will grow stronger and more active now that Pashitch is gone. But the danger which is apprehended from Italy is the actual cause of the political crisis in Jugoslavia.

On the surface the Albanian-Italian treaty looks harmless. The Italian Government even has hinted that Italy would not object if Jugoslavia concluded a similar treaty with Albania. Great Britain is reported to be friendly to the new arrangement; and Rome charges that France is backing Jugoslavia in challenging it, because of French desires to supervise and control political order in the Balkans. The suggestion that Jugoslavia conclude a similar treaty with Albania has more form than substance.

The fact is that Italy and Jugoslavia had agreed not to take any important action regarding Albania without consulting each other. The Italian move violates this agreement, Jugoslavia contends, and means scrapping twelve new treaties of amity and commerce which Foreign Minister Nintchitch had arranged with Premier Mussolini. For Italy has established practical financial control of Albania.

## Italy Astride the Adriatic

ITALY has lately granted Albania a loan. Albania had previously sought financial aid of Jugoslavia, which had none to give, and of Great Britain and France. Then Italy, having funded her war debt to the United States on favorable terms and secured large private bank loans, found it possible to offer Albania money. She lent the Albanian Government 50,000,000 gold francs, on terms which call for the repayment of 70,000,000 gold francs. The annual charges would be about half the estimated revenues of Albania, which are less than the usual yearly expenditure. The Italian loan constitutes a first claim on the income and resources of the country, and carries with it a banking control.

Italy thus sets up a practical economic protectorate over Albania. Under the new treaty, and in accordance with international practices which are admitted if not admired, she could step in at almost any time on the excuse of safeguarding her interests. That is the peril which Jugoslavia fears—an Italy astride the Adriatic and dominating the Balkans.

Bernard Shaw recently has made a remark to the effect that a financier is a man who will agree to lend you £70,000 if you sign a note agreeing to pay him back £100,000. Italy seems to qualify under his definition. The American interest in the whole situation lies in its relation to world peace and to the war-debt settlements with the United States. If nations whose debts we have funded on low terms find it convenient to make loans of this sort, Americans will begin to wonder why they cannot pay the United States more. And the Italian use of capital in the Balkans is hardly calculated to make American opinion favorable to any further modification in the terms of the Italian debt settlement in years to come.

## The Original Fuzzy Wuzzy

IT was Osman Digna whose native soldiers, over forty years ago in the Sudan, defeated Colonel Valentine Baker at Tokar and who, soon after, at the head of 10,000 dervishes, "broke a British square" at Tamai. That incident in-

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spired Kipling in his oft-recited and oft-sung ballad "Fuzzy Wuzzy" to offer tribute to the courage of these half-naked fanatics armed largely with spears and swords.

Osman Digna was a military leader of skill. His death the other day at Wadi Halfa at the age of ninety recalls a strange and adventurous career. He was a slave dealer when in 1883 he joined the Mahdi. Osman became the Mahdi's general, survived the final defeat south of Khartum, fought Kitchener more than once, gained a victory over the Italians at Erythrea in 1896, and was for several years a dangerous agitator, plotter, and impediment to peace in the Sudan. He escaped capture in a marvelous way until 1900. For twenty-two years thereafter he was held a close prisoner by the British, and was released in his old age, only four years ago.

## Giving Athletics Back to the Boys

THREE preparatory schools of Connecticut, by an agreement concerning athletics in which they engage with one another, have taken a position of educational leadership. Representatives of these schools—Choate, Loomis, and Taft (we give them in alphabetical order)—have approved of an arrangement which is in substance as follows:

In football, basket-ball, hockey, and tennis the schedule in each case is restricted to six contests, in baseball to nine, and in track to four.

Football practice is not to begin at any school before the date of opening of the school which begins the fall term earliest.

No boy may be a candidate for two teams at the same time.

In track no competitor shall take part in more than three events in any meet, and not more than two of these shall be runs.

During a contest there shall be no coaching of teams or individuals.

All substitutions, except those made by a physical director because of injury or exhaustion, will be ordered by the captain.

Although as yet this agreement (to which Mr. Reed refers in his article in this issue) remains provisional and is subject to ratification, it is not likely that it will be greatly modified, for it expresses the athletic spirit of the schools represented.

By this agreement these schools have plainly been guided by two principles which have often been forgotten and which need emphasis to-day.

The first of these principles is that athletics should be an integral element in the educational régime. Athletic contests in and between schools and colleges should be controlled by those whose purposes are educational. Altogether too commonly the real direction of athletics in schools and colleges is intrusted to coaches whose only purpose or chief purpose is to secure athletic victories, without reference to the aims of the institutions whose students they direct. Moreover, only too commonly the direction of education is in the hands of those who ignore, if they do not deny, the educational value of the athletic activities of the students. One of the representatives who formulated this agreement is the head master of the school he represented, the Loomis Institute, and also the coach—and successful coach—of the school's football and tennis teams. He is also secretary of the Head Masters' Association. In his comment on this agreement in the school paper, Mr. Batchelder has pointed out that the limitation on the contests and participants will not only extend the benefits of athletics to more boys, but that those who participate in them will have more opportunity to devote time to dramatic, literary, musical, and other activities. The other representatives, Mr. Howe, of Taft, and Mr. Shortlidge, of Choate, likewise combine the educational with the athletic purpose.

The other principle which this agreement embodies is that athletics should be given back to the players. This does not mean that boys should not be coached in athletics any more than it means that boys should not be taught other subjects. But, as Mr. Batchelder says, "there is no more reason for adult suggestions to a football team between the halves than there is for an intermission in a College Board examination during which the candidates may receive instruction and intellectual fight talks from their teachers." It is this principle which has been of late more often honored in the breach than the observance.

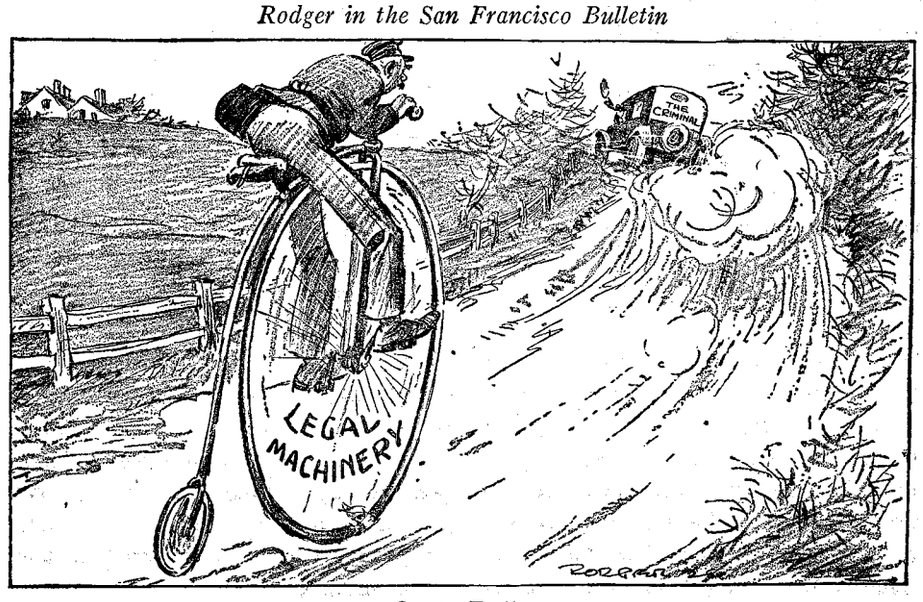
We commend the example of these schools to their elders in the colleges.

## Combating Crime in California

WARNING the people of California that crime is now an "organized business" that will soon control society unless society takes strong measures to control crime, the California State Commission for the Reform of Criminal Procedure has just issued a list of proposed drastic reforms. This program is to be presented to the State Legislature with a view toward a general reconstruction of criminal procedure.

The program, a summary of which our Pacific coast correspondent forwards, is refreshing in its vigor and evident determination to free the law from the toils of red tape and corruption in which for years it has steadily become

*Rodger in the San Francisco Bulletin*




**On the Trail**

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more and more enmeshed. Under the proposed amendments, a magistrate would be enabled to commit simply for felony, leaving it to the District Attorney to charge particular felony later. (Some lawyers may think that dangerous.) The forms of indictment and information would be greatly simplified, with all possible elimination of questions of technical pleading. The District Attorney would be required to charge all prior convictions in felonies, and far-reaching provision is made to prevent the abuse of pleas of insanity.

A defendant, after plea, would be given five instead of ten days to prepare for trial, while courts would set all criminal cases for trial for date not later than thirty days after entry of plea, with no continuances granted without affirmative proof that the ends of justice require it. At the trial the court would control all proceedings and limit them to relevant and material matters, in order to eliminate, as the report expresses it, the present "game between opposing counsel, with the court frequently sitting simply as umpire."

By other important recommendations, probation could not be granted to habitual criminals or to persons armed with deadly weapons at the time of arrest or when the crime was committed, and eligibility for parole would be greatly restricted. Furthermore, life sentences are recommended for habitual criminals, while the carrying of concealed deadly weapons without permits would be made a felony.

"The Commission," the report declares, "recognizes that no right of a defendant should be infringed," but adds, "Experience teaches that the criminal law which is most effective is the one which operates with the greatest swiftness and certainty."

The California proposals may be studied to advantage by other States.

## The Baumes Act Contentions

SUPREME Court Justice Harry E. Lewis, of Brooklyn, has issued a writ at the request of District-Attorney Dodd, of Kings County, to compel County Judge Taylor to sentence a prisoner for life who was found by the prison records to be a fourth offender, as prescribed by the New York State Baumes Act. Judge Taylor now carries the case up to the Appellate Court.

Judge Lewis sets aside Judge Taylor's claim that the doing away with judicial discretion by the Legislature is unconstitutional, citing sufficient instances of mandatory legislation to affirm his position.

Meanwhile Mr. Justice Kellogg, sitting at Oneonta, New York, has warmly commended the Baumes Act as one in the right direction for the control of crime and meeting the popular demand.

## Sunday Laws

AN old statute, passed by the New Jersey Legislature many years ago, was invoked by a group of clergymen of Irvington, New Jersey, to shut up the motion-picture theaters on Sunday, December 12. In retaliation the managers decided to invoke that law against all who were violating it. As a consequence they haled a bus driver, a trolley-car motorman, the proprietor of a gasoline station, several shopkeepers, a shoeblack, eight reporters and two photographers, and a fiddler before a magistrate. Of course, the purpose of the motion-picture managers was to show that the law that had been invoked against them could not be enforced without paralyzing the customary life of the people.

There is much to be said for the restoration of the old quiet Sunday. Those who want it, however, have no right to enforce their views upon others. The law ought to provide for every one a weekly day of rest; but the law has no business to attempt to vest that day of rest with a religious or creedal significance, or to try to make people observe that day of rest in any particular way. It may well surround the day of rest for the majority with such restriction as to insure it as a day of rest and not a day of disturbance; but it invades the right of the citizens to try to enforce Sunday's religious sanctity.

The Rev. Dr. Henry Howard, of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, in New York, stated the next day the sound principle on which the Church ought to act concerning Sunday. "You are seeking," he said, "a political solution to questions where the answer should be sought in a more moral standpoint in the training of youth. . . . We are run to death with laws in this country. . . . Let's have fewer restrictions and better principles."

Of course, every minister has the right of the citizen to try to secure the observance of law; but when ministers as ministers or churches as churches unite to secure the enforcement of the law they are on dangerous ground. The churches' function is primarily to keep men in mind of the eternal; when they engage in the business of attempting to enforce the law, they are moving in the direction of a theocracy. Such a law as that on the statute-books of New Jersey was common in the days when the distinction between Church and State was not as clear as it is to-day. It ought to be definitely removed from the body of the law and replaced by a statute that will protect properly, but without religious interference, the rest day that is a common need of man and a proper subject for the safeguarding of the law.

## Shall We Ban Gas Warfare?

POISON gas was generally regarded as the most horrible means of combat in the World War. Ever since the Armistice efforts have been made to prohibit its use. The United States, in the Washington Conference, joined in signing a treaty containing provisions against the employment of noxious gases in war. That treaty is not in effect, due to the failure of France so far to ratify it. But the American policy of opposition to poison-gas warfare has been officially established.

Now the so-called Geneva protocol, of July 17, 1925, against gas warfare, is before the Senate for consideration, and officers of the American Chemical Society are urging their members to oppose its ratification. They have written also to Secretary Kellogg, of the Department of State, asserting that the people of the United States have been misled concerning the frightfulness of chemical warfare. Favorable action on the Geneva protocol, they argue, would tend to discourage all preparedness against an enemy which might unexpectedly use gases.

Secretary Kellogg, in replying, has refuted a charge that the report of an expert committee on poison gas at the Washington Conference was suppressed by showing that it was published in the record of proceedings. He asserts that all governments recognize the necessity of being prepared against chemical warfare. Finally, he rejects a suggestion

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Wide World

**Protection for Man and Beast**

that ratification of the Geneva protocol would lead to the adoption of proposals made in conferences on disarmament under the auspices of the League of Nations to control the chemical industry of each country through national boards. He reminds the chemists that the United States is not a member of the League and has consistently opposed efforts at international control in this or similar matters.

Whether it is feasible to prevent the use of gas in war (particularly in modern warfare, in which all the industrial as well as the human resources of a country are involved) may be doubted. And it is open to doubt whether poison gas is a worse and more terrible weapon than a high-explosive shell or an airplane bomb. Some soldiers (as, for example Major Witten, whose article appears in this issue) who have been shot, bombed, and gassed testify that, if they had to choose, they would prefer to be gassed. It depends largely on the type of gas used. Some kinds are no more awful than the gas in any dentist's office.

The point is to establish, so far as possible, some decent code in fighting, when fighting is unavoidable, and to try to make it effective. To that there hardly can be objection, except by apologists of barbarism. And beyond that, the greater need is to provide means of pacific settlement of disputes which all nations can accept.

## Letting Light into the Jungle

It is often the case that industrial enterprise or the extension of commerce and transportation facilities gives potent aid to the advance of civilization in backward countries. This was true when Cuba and the Panama Zone were made healthful and prosperous communities, and is seen in the splendid hospitals which have been established in heretofore miasmic regions by shipping or industrial companies.

Another instance of this is about to occur, it seems, when the immense rubber plantations now authorized by the agreement reached between the Government of Liberia and the Firestone Company, of the United States, are begun. The very first thing to be done, so the despatches state, is to start sanitary and port improvements at Monrovia, the capital of Liberia, and other places in order to make the actual work on the rubber plantations possible.

How vast this project is appears in the statement that a million acres have been leased for rubber growing; that the cost of reclaiming the jungles will be at least $100,000,000; and that it is planned to use the services of 350,000 native laborers.

While this undertaking is purely commercial and is made possible and desirable by the recent so-called corner in rubber, it is also a notable instance of the pushing forward of civilization in what have seemed uninviting and almost hopeless directions.

## New York's Water-Power Problem

The New York State Water Power Commission, which goes out of office with the New Year, will depart without having accepted any of the leasing propositions which were before it. Strong opposition to leasing developed, and this the Commission heeded.

The situation is now open to new propositions, the most important of which is that of Governor Alfred E. Smith. His proposal is that the problem be handled and financed by a Power Authority developed on the lines of the Port Authority, which has so successfully dealt with the perplexities surrounding transfer and transportation conditions in the Greater New York territory, including the building of a suspension bridge over the Hudson, just authorized by the War Department. This plan, carefully worked out by Mr. Julius Henry Cohen, counsel for the Port Authority, will furnish the base for the proposed State body.

As applied to the public use of the Port of New York, the plan has the merit of protecting and promoting the public interest. So far the Governor's idea of adapting that plan to the water-power resources of the State seems somewhat vague and tentative. Perhaps it is the better for that, since it leaves him free to adapt the general idea to the facts as they are discovered. In any case, public control of water power is the more essential since public service corporations, being under rate regulation by the State, can claim the right to earnings which private business can never be sure

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of. Governor Smith is, of course, right in insisting that the water power of the State shall be kept under public control.

### Gospel Missions and Adversity

It is easy for Prosperity, walking through unfamiliar streets in the sordid part of a large city, to pass a Gospel mission and give it half a thought as misplaced benevolent effort. But a $100,000 dormitory soon to be built beside the old Jerry McCauley Water Street Mission, under the shadow of the Brooklyn Bridge, in New York, is testimony to what a mission means to Adversity.

Mr. John Markle, a New York coal dealer, who gave the money for the dormitory, had done more than walk past the McCauley mission. He had stopped and seen it holding out the promise of restored respectability and a place in life to men who had lost both completely. He offered his gift at a meeting in a staid New York club, a meeting moved to rousing enthusiasm by the appeal of Alexander L. Jones, who had begun his career eleven years ago, huddled, weeping, drunken, shamed, in an Eighth Avenue saloon, and had reached the position of superintendent of the McCauley Water Street Mission.

## Christmas

THE first Christmas fell on a time when the world was ruled by the sophisticated. Greek civilization was decadent. Popular religion was a subject for quips by the knowing. Faith, lost in an atmosphere of disillusion, fastened itself upon strange ceremonies and even made friends with the orgiastic. Whatever other message the early believers in the religion of Christ had for their times, they at least brought refreshment to a jaded world by their good news of one who had come in the guise of a child.

It is not to be wondered at that in such a day and generation the stories of the Nativity survived. They embodied in graphic form the saying of him whose birth they celebrated: "Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein."

Since those days disillusion has never been securely on the throne. Since then those who think and talk as if they had probed all things and found them empty have never wholly dominated the minds of men. Even to-day, when there is, God knows, enough to puzzle men's minds and set men wondering, to give them distaste for the sentimental and to reject that spurious coin in which tribute is so often paid to honor, there still abides faith. That this is so we owe to the festival of the child, recurring Christmas.

ERNEST HAMLIN ABBOTT.

## Canton Speaks for China

DURING the sessions of the Council of the League of Nations there appeared in Geneva two quiet Chinese envoys, who caused a considerable stir among the diplomats of the Western Powers. They were from the Kuomingtang Party of Canton, in southern China, whose armies have defeated Wu Pei-fu in central China and established a new capital at Hankow, on the Yangtze River. They called on China's representative in the League Council. Just what they said is not known, but they are reported to have warned him—as a delegate of the Peking Government—not to speak or take any action in the name of China.

He had previously announced that China intends to abrogate all the existing "unequal treaties" with foreign nations. But after the call of the Canton envoys he made no further declarations.

About the abolition of the "unequal treaties" there could have been no difference of opinion between them; the southern Chinese are more set on that than any other faction. The incident is significant as an indication of who really holds the most power in China.

The "shadow Cabinet" at Peking recently resigned. Its passing changed nothing. It only placed authority openly where it actually had been—in the hands of the northern militarists. These have formed a new coalition under the name of Ankuochun or "Country Pacifying Army." Headed by Marshal Chang Tso-lin, of Manchuria, with the support of his son, Chang Tsung-chang, in Shantung and Sun Chuan-fang in the eastern provinces around Shanghai, this coalition has the problem of stopping the Cantonese. So far they have done little, and it is not certain how strong and reliable the coalition is. Also the attitude of Wu Pei-fu toward it is uncertain; but his reverses have left him with so little prestige that he hardly counts at present. Thus the north is weakened and divided. And even in its own territory the coalition faces a formidable enemy—General Feng Yu-hsiang, of Chili, known as China's Christian General.

Defeated at Peking and later at Nankow Pass by a combination of Chang Tso-lin and Wu Pei-fu, Feng withdrew his armies and bided his time. Now his Kuominchun or "People's Army" is reported to have pushed south and entered Honan Province, and to be advancing toward the Lunghai Railway. This move, if successful, would give Feng a chance to join forces with General Chiang Kai-shek, of the Cantonese armies, with whom he is friendly. Thus a new linking of southern and northern factions appears as a possibility.

Both Feng and the Cantonese have had supplies and financial aid, as well as advice, from Soviet Russia. The Cantonese particularly are characterized by many foreigners in China as "Reds." It appears, however, that they are not Communists, but radically inclined nationalists bent on breaking the hold of foreign Powers over China. This is a purpose which happens to fit in with Bolshevik schemes, and so the Russians have encouraged and helped them.

After consolidating their position at Hankow and Wuchang, on the Yangtze, the Cantonese have been working ahead north and east, toward Peking and Shanghai. In the rear of their armies they are reported to be establishing a "committee form" of government, organizing all classes of labor into unions of the Soviet type, and calling strikes for better working conditions. Employers, and especially foreign business firms, have been alarmed by the movement. The United States has followed the other Powers in sending two destroyers to Hankow and one to Foochow, to protect American citizens and interests. But so far there has been no trouble calling for serious action.

What is happening in China can perhaps be best gauged by the attitude of Great Britain. The British are more deeply interested in China than any other Western nation. Their officials and Government follow Chinese affairs closely. They have fought a long economic battle with the Cantonese at Hongkong, where a port strike and boycott were declared against them. Until lately the British tendency has been to denounce the Kuomingtang leaders at Canton as "Reds." Now, in the light of

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Courtesy White Studio

**Caponsacchi, the priest (Walter Hampden), in the hands of Count Guido's henchmen after being overtaken by the Count (Ernest Rowan), at the extreme left. Pompilia, the Count's innocent and tortured wife (Edith Barrett), gazes in despair at her protector in the power of her husband, "master, by hell's right;" while the rascally innkeeper (W. H. Sams), for the moment forgetful of his greed, looks on**

the new situation, with the Kuomingtang capital established at Hankow, the British tone has changed. It has become evident that no responsible person is thinking of intervention. A new British Minister has been sent to China. And when a general strike and boycott were threatened by the Cantonese leaders at Hankow it was suggested that Great Britain might extend *de facto* recognition to their Government.

That is a sign which way the wind is blowing in China. It points to the probability that the two quiet envoys at Geneva were advance emissaries of a new power with which the Western nations will have to deal.

## Browning on Broadway

ANY sign of health along the white-light way in New York these days is news. It is therefore news, good news, that Walter Hampden in "Caponsacchi" seems to be playing to good houses. It would be news even in a theatrical season less devoted to dullness flavored with indecency than this.

That absorbing drama is on Broadway to-day because an Englishman, about the time our Civil War was ending, found in a bookstall in Florence a parchment-bound record, partly in print, partly in manuscript, of a Roman murder case.

It was the story of a priest who carried off a certain count's wife, of the murder of the wife, the imprisonment of the priest, and the execution of the count. It was a scandal at the time, rolled under many tongues, and then forgotten for a hundred and sixty years or so till Robert Browning dug it up, paid eightpence for it, and made out of it his poem "The Ring and the Book."

Now out of the poem, to a great extent out of its very words, Arthur Goodrich and Rose A. Palmer have made the play that Hampden and his fine supporting cast are producing.

Mixed with the alloy of that police story Browning saw the gold. He added his poetic fancy,

> Just a spirt
> O' the proper fiery acid o'er its face,

and the thing that came out was the gold of his great story that will endure as long as English is read.

There is nothing too sordid, too beastly, too repulsive, to form the material for great literature. From the Greek tragedies, through Shakespeare, to the drama of to-day, crime and vice, the worst impulses of the human heart, characters sunk in the depth of infamy, have been employed as themes of the playwrights. It is not the material, but the use they make of their material, that distinguishes artists from literary scavengers. To-day the playwright thinks that it is "sophisticated" and "civilized"

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to keep and display the alloy and throw the gold away. An actor-manager like Hampden who prefers gold, and out of it produces a thing of beauty, ought to find a large public whose taste for gold has not been destroyed.

Browning's sense of the dramatic was keen; but he had small skill in the technique of the theater. It so happens, therefore, that more dramatic than any of his plays is the long poem, originally published in four volumes, in which he tells the story of Caponsacchi and Pompilia. As dramatized for the stage this story is a compelling play, swift in movement, holding the auditor's interest to the end. It is theatrical in the sense in which the greatest plays are theatrical; for as it is played it does not suggest a book, but life.

# Hard-Boiled Absurdity

By LAWRENCE F. ABBOTT

Contributing Editor of The Outlook

"ORGANIZATION" and "efficiency" are favorite words in modern American life. I am not sure that we are as efficient as we pride ourselves on being, but there is no doubt that we are highly organized. Every morning the postman brings to me—and, of course, to thousands of other householders—appeals for the support of the Society for This or the Society for That. These numerous societies have formidable lists of officers, directors, and boards of advisers. The king pin, however, is generally a paid secretary whose business it is to collect money and discover objects for which the money may be spent. No doubt many of these organizations perform a useful service. Some of them, however—altogether too many, I fear—confirm the dictum of a genial cynic who said to me that "civilization is a scheme which the human race has taken great trouble to invent in order to make itself more trouble."

In spite of this multiplicity of organizations, I should like to add one more to the list. It would be "The Society for the Suppression of One Hundred Per Cent or Red-Blooded Americanism." I am almost persuaded that the terms "one hundred per cent" and "red blood" are doing more harm in the United States to-day to the cause of sound patriotism than all the suspected emissaries of Soviet Russia. The foolishness that is perpetrated in connection with these apparently innocent terms was strongly impressed upon my consciousness this morning. When I opened my mail, I found in it some publications of the "Industrial Defense Association, Inc.," of Boston. Its purpose is to warn "red-blooded Americans" that the "American Government and Institutions are in danger from radical propaganda;" that "the corruption of youth, the disruption of labor, and the undermining of public morals are all a part of the sinister program;" and it asserts that in the fulfillment of a patriotic duty it "lays bare the monstrous plot to undermine our National life." Terrified, I turned to the alphabetical list of organizations which the Industrial Defense Association asserts are participating in this "monstrous plot." There are more than three hundred such organizations on its black list. Would you believe it, red-blooded Americans! Among the plotters are the Berkeley Divinity School, the Summer School of Bryn Mawr College, the Meadville Theological School, the Oberlin College Liberal Club, the Union Theological Seminary Contemporary Club, the Vassar College Political Association, and the Wellesley College Forum. Ought we not to be grateful to the Boston Defense Association for exclaiming in black type, "Let's cut out the cancer!" and revealing to us that "the ultimate purpose of this widespread campaign of corruption [including Bryn Mawr, Wellesley, Vassar, and the Union Theological Seminary] is, of course, to pave the way for revolution and the setting up of a socialistic or soviet state"?

But this is not the worst. It is difficult to uproot underground and sinister organizations like the Meadville Theological Seminary and the Union Theological Seminary. What is really needed is to ferret out individuals who can be decapitated, drawn, and quartered, or at least pilloried, so that red-blooded Americans can avoid them and all their works. Fortunately, the Boston Patriots publish such a list of individuals whom they entitle "subversive workers." In this list of plotters who are spreading their "subversive, radical, and doubtful" doctrines "over America like a gigantic spider-web" I find some startling names. There is David Starr Jordan, for example, Chancellor Emeritus of Stanford University. For fifty years Dr. Jordan has been posing as one of the great educators and zoölogists of modern times and is a member of the great scientific societies throughout the world. But after this when I run across one of his books on fossil fishes I shall avoid it like the plague.

Then there is Lillian D. Wald. Miss Wald, who is the President and head resident of the Nurses' Settlement in Henry Street, New York, has done more, probably, for the advancement of maternal and child welfare than any other living American. She is a foremost expert in hospital nursing and public health—at least, that is what the public supposes she is. The Boston Patriots know better. They know she is an enemy of society. I am very grateful to the Boston Patriots. I shall never have a trained nurse in my household again without being on my guard.

Another of the "subversive workers" is Dr. James H. Dillard. Dr. Dillard is a Virginian and ostensibly a distinguished educator. He has numerous academic degrees and at one time concealed his nefarious designs by accepting the post of Professor of Latin at Tulane University. Harvard, in recognition of his services in the cause of education, conferred upon him the honorary degree LL.D. only three years ago. He is President of the Jeanes Foundation and of the Slater Fund, two organizations which have done notable work, gratefully recognized in the South, for the solution of the so-called Negro problem. His books on their face appear to be quite innocent. He has written a text-book on arithmetic, edited and published some of the letters of Cicero, and (what is perhaps suspicious under the circumstances) an anthology of German poems. Personally he is one of the most delightful of men. But he has completely hoodwinked me. I have always regarded him as a peculiarly fine representative of the best American patriotism, and I now learn that he goes about the country spinning spider-webs to catch such innocents as myself.

After the exposure of the wolves in

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sheep's clothing which the Industrial Defense Association, Inc., of Boston has so patriotically published, it is not surprising that it feels compelled to preface the exposure with the following apologia: "The destructive forces are so well organized, so far-reaching in their scope, and so free to pursue their sinister purposes unhampered, that a recital of the ungarnished facts necessarily conveys the impression of exaggeration and alarmism."

Quite so. Hard-boiled exaggeration is as insidious an enemy of sound patriotism as red radicalism.

# A Hickory Backlog

## By Dixon Merritt

DAWN and dying embers. Destiny and a dead dog—dead since the day when the tree from which the popping backlog came was a germ in a nutshell. Calvinist predestination. Arminian free will. Pagan fate. Which—if, perchance, any and not all—was in the ashes with the banked backlog, to be uncovered by John Stayhome's fire shovel in the dimness of daybreak and to pop brilliant, bursting bits of inferno about his bare shin bones?

He rubbed those bones, or, more strictly speaking, the skin that covered them, and pondered. Shagbark hickory makes such magnificent firewood—so brilliant of flame, so ardent of glowing coal, so free burning and yet so lasting—if only it did not pop so damnably when uncovered after all-night banking. Worst in the world, except—well, one might almost as well bank mulberry. Less dangerous, of course, to property than chestnut, because hickory pops in little, lively sparks that burst again and again into ever littler and livelier sparks, while chestnut pops great coals that very likely set the house afire, but—well, one might almost as well bed among bursting shells; the fireworks display would be hardly more brilliant, the discomfort more deadly, perhaps, but hardly more acute. Why, anyhow, was not that particular cut of shagbark hickory made into ax handles instead of a backlog? John knew when he sawed it that he ought to saw elm for backlogs, but—oh, the dad-blamed hickory was too convenient.

Predestination? Destiny? Dead dog? There you are. That hickory was foredoomed to firewood because old Henderson Shaw's shaggy dog—the one that he had forty years ago and boasts of still—suddenly took it into his head to leave his business of driving home the cows and chase a squirrel, with a hickory-nut in its mouth, loping along the rail fence between the Shaw pasture and the Stayhome farther field. That squirrel, forced to flee for its life, dropped the nut where it was never meant to be, and there, in the corner of a worm fence by an old field, far from the mold of its native woods, it sprouted and grew.

CHANCE? Looks so. A squirrel chooses a hickory-nut for his supper. Before he arrives home with it an educated dog reverts for the moment to the hunting habit. The nut is dropped, delivered from its apparent destiny of feeding a rodent, spared for its manifest destiny of making a tree. Chance, certainly.

Still—

The bark of a straight young hickory peels when the sap is rising with a freedom foreign to other barks. Twisted gently, it comes clear of the wood in great, straight lengths. And when the wood is whittled properly—one side smoothed here, a short length cut out there, and a groove made for a vent at the little end—and placed back in the bark there has been made a whistle that, not merely to boyish ears but to ears that know the value of musical sounds, beats all the metal tooting things that all the Germans ever made and sold to American boys whom they later were to bomb with poisonous gases. There is in a hickory whistle something of that liquid purity sometimes heard in flutes, and a barefoot country boy, adept at the art, can get out of it, too, more weirdness than adheres in the slide trombone.

So it came about, on an April morning long ago, when John Stayhome's brother Clem was bent upon making a bigger whistle than any other boy had, that the dog-destined hickory was near to its death. He had nicked it, indeed, with his IXL Barlow before his eye was caught by an overgrown young paw-paw that would make a bigger, if not a better, whistle.

And some years later John himself, when he was hauling slippery oat straw on a frame out of that field, came near to cutting the hickory to make a sway-pole, but elected, at last, to let the pesky oat straw slip, if it would, and fertilize the field.

Chance? Three chances, at least. And many chances, taken together and coming the same way out, cease to be chance. After all, this hickory was destined, by squirrel and dog and boy and man, if by nothing further back, to burn in the Stayhome chimney and bombard the Stayhome shins.

Was it old Shaw's shaggy dog that saved the hickory and doomed it—saved it from the squirrel's stomach and at the same time doomed it never to grow stanch and tall in the forest; doomed it never to bear fruit through a vigorous and long-continuing prime; doomed it never to attain the ambition of all good trees, never to be sawn into lumber to serve the needs of the world; doomed it to the fireplace and the ash-heap?

AH! What but ashes, after all, is the end of any tree? What, after all, but flaming fire is the glory of any wood? What wood, unless it rot ingloriously where it grew, can escape that fate? What wood, unless it be of slacker trees, would shirk that service of the primal need of man?

This hickory—but for dog and destiny—might have been made into tool handles, might have driven nails and hewn timbers and delved into mines at innumerable places wide-sundered. But, ultimately, it would have gone to feed as many little fires that workmen build to burn their outworn wood and warm their fingers by.

It might have gone to the spoke mill, and thence to the motor-car plant; might have filled the wheels of a giant touring car and, painted red or black, have rolled the miles out behind it until, with a record on the speedometer of three times round the world, it would have gone to the junk pile and, with other outworn wheels, have smoldered on a rubbish-heap to warm the human buzzards who pick the carcasses of dead cars for rust and rubber.

It might, conceivably, have been made into pulp and the pulp into paper, and the paper might have gone around the roller of a typewriter to make letters or through the rollers of a printing-press to make newspapers. No matter. The woman who might have received the letter

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would, when she had scanned it through, have tossed it on the grate—a flicker of flame, a flurry of white ashes up the chimney, ashes holding together for yet a little while, ashes with the ink of living words still showing through them. The man who might have bought the paper would, when he had glanced at the headlines, have left it on the seat in the trolley car or on a bench in the park. "White wings" would have swept it into a garbage-can, a truck would have carted it away, and, despite the mighty thoughts inked there, it would have crumbled to ashes in the maw of some city's Gehenna—"where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched."

It might have been sawed into great timbers and built into the framework of a house—might have supported a home while children were born and played and grew and worked and died and others came, generation after generation, to take their places. But somewhere between the planking, in some dark night, mayhap of the twenty-second century, a mouse would have gnawed a match. Smoldering flame would have eaten slowly into the worn timbers, finally outbursting into flame. An engine bell would have clanged, too late. The hickory timber would have fulfilled its destiny of flame—perhaps to char the bones of those whom it had sheltered.

It might have stood, if the squirrel had never come hungry hunting nuts, for a century and a decade and a year and a day in the forest where it began, one April, as a fuzzy catkin. But in the fullness of time a careless man would have thrown the butt of a cigarette among the dry leaves in a windy day of autumn, and the forest, old hickory and all, would have flamed and roared and have given itself in ashes to the four winds.

THERE is more to destiny than the dog, dead forty years, that old Henderson Shaw still boasts of at the general store.

# Two Dictatorships

## By IMOGEN B. OAKLEY

ROME is a dictatorship. Philadelphia is a dictatorship.

In the Italian city Mussolini has gathered all the functions of government into his own hands and rules frankly and openly as an autocrat. In the city where the Declaration of Independence was signed the constitutional authorities are under the control of an invisible dictatorship. The actual members of this invisible dictatorship are unknown to the community at large, but it is conceded that not the least of them is Mr. William S. Vare, who claims nomination and election as United States Senator from Pennsylvania.

UNDER the Italian dictator, Rome has become an orderly and healthful city. An excellent system of waste removal prevents litter on the sidewalks. The streets are flushed daily and are clean. The bountiful supply of pure water, a legacy from ancient Rome, has been added to, and plans are under way for a still greater increase. Laws are respected. The city is safe at all hours. Beggars no longer infest the streets. "If a man will not work," says Mussolini in the words of the wise Apostle, "neither shall he eat." There is no unemployment. Capital and labor work together in amity. The tipping nuisance has been abolished. Predatory cab-drivers, porters, and waiters prey upon the public at their peril. Schools have been improved and multiplied.

Under the invisible dictatorship of Philadelphia, the city is unbelievably dirty. A poorly planned and feebly executed system of waste removal allows overflowing ash and garbage cans to block the sidewalks. The streets are littered with papers and rubbish. The water supply is deficient and of poor quality. According to the reports of the National Housing Association, Philadelphia has the worst housing in the United States. In South Philadelphia, known locally as Vare's bailiwick, the inquiring visitor will find incredible slums and smell indescribable odors. Hundreds of cesspools pollute the soil and air. Many miles of streets are without sewers. Laws are disregarded. The Police Department is honeycombed with politics. General Butler, late Director of Public Safety, warned the citizens time and time again that seventy-five per cent of the cases taken by him to the magistrates' courts were dismissed in the face of positive evidence, and that these same magistrates are, as a rule, mere agents of the invisible dictatorship.

MUSSOLINI declares that the parliamentary system has broken down in Italy, that party blocs prevent the transaction of necessary public business, and that he intends to act while the Chamber of Deputies talks. The invisible dictatorship of Philadelphia proclaims through its agents its obedience to the will of the people as expressed at the polls, but it controls the polls by stuffing ballot-boxes and counting phantom voters. It has added to the State election laws a Voters' Assistance Clause, which permits any voter claiming a physical or mental disability to have assistance in marking his ballot, and to have assistance means that the ballot will be marked by an obliging agent of the invisible dictatorship. I have been a watcher at the polls in five elections, and have seen nearly one-half of the voters ask and receive assistance on the mere statement that they did not understand the ballots. In not a few wards the votes for the different candidates are "estimated" on the basis of a count of a few ballots. The Court, in a test case, ruled that to "estimate" votes is not a proof of a conspiracy to change the count, but merely an indication that the election officers are tired after their long day's work and want to go home.

No one in Philadelphia, outside of the invisible dictatorship and its agents, knows whether the constitutional authorities whom the citizens are expected to honor and obey are or are not the actual choice of an actual majority. An independent candidate for Council was lately defeated, on the face of the returns, but, having the courage of his convictions, he succeeded in forcing a recount, and found he was elected by a majority as large as the one "estimated" against him. An increasing number of really good citizens do not think it worth while to go to the polls, believing on good evidence that their votes will either not be counted or that any required number of phantom voters will be raised up against them.

Realizing that under existing laws elections have become farces and the ballot a powerless weapon of defense, Governor Pinchot appointed last winter a committee of prominent citizens to study the election laws and suggest what changes should be made. With the approval of this committee, he called a special session of the Legislature to consider, among other vital projects, the repeal of the Voters' Assistance Clause. The invisible dictatorships of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh were able to prevent

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any action by the Legislature, and the Assistance Clause remained to help control the last primary. Far more than usual of thinking men and women voted at this primary, but the assisted voters, the "estimated" votes, and the lavish use of "slush" money left them, as usual, in the minority.

PHILADELPHIA is not the only city with an invisible and irresponsible government, nor Pennsylvania the only State. Chicago's recent primary gave ample evidence that the elections in that city are controlled as effectively as those in the city called by William Penn the "Holy Experiment," and several other American cities might well be cited in proof that democracy has not, as yet, been made safe for their citizens.

Mussolini ignores the national representatives, but lays his cards on the table that all Italy may know why and how he plays the game.

The Philadelphia dictatorship ostensibly obeys the constitutional authorities, but actually creates and rules them by stuffing ballot-boxes and debauching the electorate with "slush" funds.

Which is the more dangerous foe of democracy, the open dictatorship of Italy or the invisible and irresponsible dictatorship of Philadelphia?

# Football for Sportsmen

## By HERBERT REED

AMERICAN college football, facing the second great crisis of its long existence as the finest of college games, is to be destroyed as a war game and returned as a sport to the players themselves. This action is made certain by the determination of the Rules Committee to perform the second major surgical operation since 1905. That earlier operation was the removal of the deadly mass play, the killing concentration of a group of massive men on a single individual until that individual was at the best exhausted, and at the worst killed or permanently injured. This time, responding to a practically Nation-wide protest, the Committee will remove from the gridiron scheme of things the shift plays, as sinister in their way as was the mass momentum of the old days. This will be done, not because the plays are destructive of limb or life, but because they tend to dishonesty, and therefore dishonor the social life and activity of those most important communities in American life, the colleges and the universities. In other words, the football Frankenstein is finding the means to destroy the monster of his invention that otherwise would soon destroy him, and with him the sportsmanship that must be present in games of hard, naturally rough, physical contact that alone gives them the right to live.

In future, not only will college boys—or college men, as you prefer—not be taught maneuvers that *will* beat the rules, but they also will not be taught maneuvers that *might* beat the rules. It is a sign of improving times in college athletics that support for the coming drastic revision comes not alone from the reformers but from football coaches who themselves have been beating the rules, whether consciously or unconsciously. When one finds between the covers of a football manual written by one of our foremost coaches the advice to players under certain conditions to break the rules and take the penalty deliberately, rather than obey the rules and accept the score against them, it is easy to realize that further progress along such lines can only break down utterly the sportsmanship for which one looks to the college athlete. This is one of the things that has stirred to action the men who govern the game. And they have come to realize that nothing but the bodily removal of the shift plays will accomplish results.

IT has become the habit these days to blame the laxity of the father for any breaking down of the morale, the decency and sportsmanship on the field or off, of the American college boy. Yet I know fathers who will not let their sons attend institutions where the more highly developed modern shift plays are taught. It is not the immediate result of this type of play that they fear, but the ultimate demoralization that amost inevitably ensues.

So far as those who have made practically a lifetime study of the technical side of football are concerned, they have come to the realization that illegal football, or football that has a tendency to be illegal, can be beaten only by equally illegal play, or play that has the same tendencies and opportunities to be illegal. Since it is the very nature of the shift plays that their legality depends upon the judgment of a single official, or at the most two, and that the abilities of these officials to detect the breach of the rules when the game is at its topmost speed vary greatly, it has been decided to eliminate any play that can appear legal by the outwitting of the official. In the recent Army-Yale game the soldiers, who used the shift plays in every attack, were penalized a total of eighteen times for starting before the ball, but were still able to beat Yale, which did not use the shift, by a score of 33 to 0. I do not believe that there was any such normal difference between the two elevens, although the Army probably would have won in any case.

THE attitude of T. A. D. Jones, the Yale coach, on this subject is well known. He will not teach the shifts because he wants his players, win or lose, to "come clean" through the game. Doubtless the Army coaches would have been willing to play the game without the use of the shifts, but they could not well be asked to do so, since a little later their team had to meet Notre Dame, one of the earliest and most thorough exponents of the shifts, and could not afford to drop the only play with which they would have any chance against the team from South Bend. In that game the shifts were penalized hardly at all. Both teams were tarred with the same brush. In the meantime Jones, silently protesting against the shifts, had a disastrous season, and in consequence was compelled to stand up under a deluge of abuse that has seldom been heaped on any man in the history of the game.

There may be greater coaches than Jones, but there certainly has never been a better sportsman, nor a more pronounced and steadfast sportsman and idealist. It is to the everlasting credit of the University itself that five former Yale captains, when asked about his retention as football instructor at New Haven, voted unanimously to stand behind him, win, lose, or draw. He had not taught them "gridiron warfare," an expression in which the newspapers delight, but the game of American college football at its best.

Jones has been the pioneer in the fight to give the game back to the players and to keep the game an honest sport. Some idea of his influence has been gained by his agreement with Princeton to abandon "scouting," an agreement that was kept to the letter by both sides. He has also steadfastly ad-

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vocated turning the game over to the players, under the direction of the captain, once the team takes the field. In this regard it is interesting to note that three of the most influential if not over-advertised schools of New England—Taft, Choate, and Loomis—have been formulating for their own practice just such an agreement. The attitude of Jones, the action of these schools, are beacons of betterment in the Eastern football sky. And, since the Rules Committee's preponderating membership comes from the East, the future course of the Committee is obvious. It may be that the Committee will content itself with eliminating the dishonest shifts, but if I know the present mood of its Eastern members, and I think I do, it is prepared to stamp its approval on any regulation that will eliminate unfairness at any stage of the game.

It is only fair to point out that few of the best coaches have been accused of deliberately devising a method of beating the rules, but so clever are some of these men that they have devised plays that automatically have that tendency, and when the tendency is there the performance will surely follow sooner or later.

It is pleasant to find that many of the coaches of established reputation all over the country, even those who have used the shifts, are now aligned against them. It so happened that the first real action came out of the Middle West at the time of the Army-Navy game, when the coaches of the Western Conference got together to frame schedules for next season. They did not go as far as I am certain the Rules Committee itself will go when "de-shifting" football, but the moral effect of the agreement was all that was needed. There was a tendency among certain sports writers to look upon the action of the Western Conference as a slap in the face for the Rules Committee, but I happen to know that the Rules Committee—at least the Eastern members thereof—have not so considered it, and are glad that the Western Conference did what it did do just in the way it was done.

This Middle-Western attitude undoubtedly will be strengthened on the eve of the Christmas holidays, when the Football Coaches' Association, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and other leading amateur sports bodies hold their annual meetings in New York. At these meetings the necessity for sportsmanship in football, if the game is to live, will be stressed as never before, and it is that attitude that looms up as never before at these gatherings, the white peak of sportsmanship, as dominating as the white peak of Fuji in the blue vault of the sky.

That same practical idealism so persistently, patiently, and splendidly fought for by Dean Le Baron R. Briggs, of Harvard, when he was the real pathfinder not merely in football but in other college sports, is just around the corner.

# Humanizing War

## By George Witten

Is gas a humane weapon, or is it the terrible thing it has been described by writers who have gathered their information from hearsay and supposition? The man in the street scratches his head in puzzled wonder. He has been taught to believe that it is the most diabolical invention ever introduced into warfare. Yet the American Legion, composed of men who faced both gas and shell-fire, has put itself on record as favoring the use of gas in future wars. These men should know, and they do know, the truth about gas.

Let me answer the above question by telling briefly my own experience with shell-fire and gas. In August, 1914, I left New York and joined the First Canadian Contingent. I went through the entire war, and witnessed every kind of casualty. I was a casualty myself on four different occasions. Once from a bullet, once from shell-fire, once from gas, and once from a mine explosion.

At the time of being wounded by high-explosive shell I was intelligence officer for an artillery brigade, and was reconnoitering for targets along the enemy lines. A German observation officer must have seen my movements around an old deserted trench; for they opened fire on the trench with 5.9 howitzer shells. I tried to duck for cover, but ran right into a burst, which knocked me unconscious for a time, wounded me in twenty-odd places, and half buried me in muck and slime. When consciousness returned I was cold, wet, hungry, and suffering the most excruciating pain. For eighteen hours I lay in this condition, before being picked up and taken to a dressing station.

The journey to rail-head in an ambulance, by train to the coast, across the Channel in a rocking, heaving boat, again by train to London, and again by ambulance to the hospital, was one of torture. What route they took me over on this occasion I don't know; at the time I was too miserable to care. For days and nights after I reached the hospital I was so unnerved through pain I found it impossible to sleep.

For seven months I lay on my back as helpless as a child. They took twenty-one pieces of shell from me, but left a couple in, which I still carry. The daily dressings and probings that were necessary were exceedingly painful. For months I was punished. It was not the fault of the British medical authorities; it was just what every shell-wounded man had to go through.

After a year in hospital I returned to duty, and was again sent to France. This time I commanded a field battery. It was on the 13th of June, the fourth day of the Battle of Messines. I was up a tree observing the fire of my battery; daylight was just breaking. I remember admiring the color effects of some golden-rain—red and green lights that had been thrown up by the signal corps. Next I woke, as from a comfortable sleep, and found myself in a London hospital.

A nurse was standing by my bed with a cone in her hand—I learned later that she had been feeding me oxygen. When I tried to speak, I found I couldn't. But there was no pain. There was a certain amount of discomfort; but nothing as compared to the discomfort and misery attendant upon a shell wound. I kept lapsing back into unconsciousness; and as I would find myself slipping away, so to speak, I would struggle to maintain my senses. This, of course, was unpleasant; but after a time I became used to it, and ceased to struggle against it.

I learned that I had been in hospital over a month from the time of being gassed before regaining consciousness. Most of this month I had spent at the point of death, but did not know it. I had been wounded at the same time I had been gassed, but the wounds had almost healed before I was aware of them. I had made probably the same journey from the lines in France to Lon-

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don which I made when wounded by high-explosive shell, and which caused me so much suffering; but this time I knew nothing about it.

I have seen hundreds of gassed men carried off the field, lying as quietly on their stretchers as if they had just fallen asleep; also I have seen hundreds carried away with shell wounds, and most of these were moaning with pain. The only men I have seen suffer from gas are men who thought they were gassed, but weren't, and had worked themselves into a panic of fear.

Of the 7,000 men who were overcome in the first gas attack at Ypres and lay piled up like dead in the trenches, only 350 actually died. The rest were evacuated to hospitals, and for months they, and the medical fraternity that attended them, expected and watched for dire calamities to befall them. Speculation and prophecies concerning gassed men were rife. Men high in the medical profession spoke of cancer, heart trouble, tuberculosis, insanity, and a score of other complications that might follow the gassing. Almost any ailment that came to a man after he had been gassed was attributed to the gas. If a gassed soldier committed a depredation, immediately his friends made as a defense for him that he had become insane through being gassed. One ex-soldier who had married and deserted several girls made a plea of being gassed when arrested and charged with bigamy.

Now statistics show that, out of the hundreds of thousands of those gassed in the last war, only a few have suffered any permanent effects; and of those who claim disability from being gassed, it is doubtful if their present ailments are really attributable to gas. Statistics also show that when the great influenza epidemic swept over the world at the close of the war it passed over those who had been gassed and those who had worked in the gas-manufacturing plants and left them unscathed.

One-third of the casualties of the World War were caused by gas, and of this number less than two per cent died; the remainder got well. Against this we have the other two-thirds, which were caused by shells and bullets; of this number twenty-four per cent died, and many of those who escaped death are permanently injured.

There has been no weapon in the history of all wars that is more humane, and at the same time more effective, than gas. One airman armed with lachrymatory bombs can knock out a whole regiment of infantry and render them helpless against assault; yet in twenty-four hours they will be in perfect health again.

Next to gas, shell-fire is the most effective weapon known. During the late war enemy positions were subjected to intense bombardments for weeks at a time; yet when the infantry attacked it was found impossible to take these assaulted positions. It is estimated that ten tons of high explosive are hurled into an enemy position for every one man hit. High-explosive shells can only do damage within a few yards of where they burst. It was considered marvelous when a fifteen-inch shell caused casualties within a hundred and fifty yards of where it burst. A fifteen-inch gas bomb will render a quarter of a square mile of territory untenable, and temporarily put the troops occupying it out of commission.

Shell-fire invariably leaves those it strikes either dead or maimed and scarred for life; yet gas leaves neither scars nor after ill effects, and seldom kills. Though we have ample proof that high-explosive shells are the most cruel and deadly weapons known, no one has raised a voice against shell-fire in war for over fifty years.

Dr. Albert P. Francine, one of the best-informed physicians on both gas and tuberculosis, while testifying before the Senate investigating committee on the after-effects of gas, asked if any one present had ever seen a gassed man who was scarred as a result of gas. No one had. "I never have," said Dr. Francine, "and I have seen them burned to pieces, just short of death."

Dr. Francine then explained to the committee how tissues destroyed by gas will build themselves up again, and finally leave the wound entirely healed and untraceable.

When asked his opinion of tuberculosis following as a result of gas, Dr. Francine said, "I believe that, so far from producing tuberculosis, gas may tend to prevent tuberculosis."

The layman will probably ask, "If this weapon is so humane, then why use it at all?"

The answer is, Because it is the most effective weapon known. The slaughter of men in warfare is not the quickest way to break the backbone of an enemy. Among the noblest of us, dead men are soon forgot, or at least they need not take up our immediate time in their care. During the last war, and through most wars, the dead were left upon the ground until a convenient time for burying them, and many of them were never buried at all.

But how about the wounded? These must be cared for. Every wounded or unconscious man requires the immediate attention of at least two physically fit men. This is just to get him off the field of action and to a dressing station. From there on he becomes a continued source of worry and expense to his government. He is a live casualty, which means he is a live liability. Gas causes the greatest number of live casualties in war.

A bombardment of gas shells is the safest and surest of victory for an infantry attack to follow. Why? Because gas penetrates trenches, goes around rocks and trees and over hills. It floats with the wind, and can be used as effectively at night as in the day. The materials are liquids and solids when in the shells or bombs, and are turned to gas or fine dust only when released from the shell. Chemical warfare is simply using the molecule as the projectile instead of larger pieces of material, such as bullets, shrapnel, and pieces of steel from high-explosive shells, which are limited in their radius and cannot pierce beyond or around solid matter.

Sir William Pope tells us that the introduction of gas in the late war led to an appalling lengthening of the casualty lists. And the fact that the French, American, and British had in sight an overwhelming production of this formidable weapon was a large factor in determining the Armistice.

Sir William goes on to explain that making treaties against the use of gas in war is a waste of time, because such a treaty could easily be circumvented, and, while keeping within the letter of the treaty, at the same time chemical gases could be used. "This will be easy," says Sir William, "in view of the great variety of effects producible by chemical changes. In the late war many cases occurred in which high-explosive shells liberated sufficient carbon monoxide to kill, and it will be a simple task to devise high explosives—a most natural weapon—which will involve large amounts of these excessively poisonous gases."

The next question is, Is it an economical weapon? One-third of the casualties of the World War were caused by gas; yet the entire expenditure for chemical warfare cost the Allied armies but one-half of one per cent of the total cost of the war. In other words, we have two-thirds of the casualties costing 99½ per cent of the total expenditure,

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while the other one-third cost but one-half of one per cent.

In face of the facts which have been shown in the preceding paragraphs, it is foolish to believe that in the event of war any nation will hesitate to use a weapon which is the most effective, and at the same time the most economical, besides being the most humane known in history.

No matter what treaties are made, gas in warfare has proved an indispensable weapon, and there is no doubt but that gas will be the chief weapon of the future. It is vitally necessary to the safety of the United States that its troops are adequately trained in the use of gas in war and in protecting themselves against attack by this new weapon.

# Behind the Counter

## By MARY DEWHURST BLANKENHORN

Executive Secretary of the Consumers' League of New York

THE Consumers' League has always been peculiarly interested in conditions for workers in department stores. In the thirty-five years the League has been in existence it has seen changes in working conditions as marked as those which have come in women's fashions. The flapper of 1926, in "semi-nude" stockings, bathing-suit dresses, bobbed hair, and no corsets, is not more different from her mother in trailing skirts, leg-of-mutton sleeves, hour-glass waist, and high-boned collar than is the work week of the shop-girl of to-day from that of 1891.

The League was among the first organizations to make a study of working conditions for women behind the counter. It is now pointing with pride to the changes which have come in those conditions within its lifetime.

IN 1891 the Working Women's Society (a forerunner of the Women's Trade Union League) had aroused interest among leisure-class women in regard to conditions for employees in retail stores. The Consumers' League was born of that interest and has thrived on it. By 1896 the League had been working for five years to accord to mercantile employees the same measure of protection enjoyed by factory workers. At that time it gained a partial legislative victory.

This law secured then was hailed as a tremendous step. It was soon discovered that it embodied the usual joker. Its enforcement had been taken out of the hands of its natural guardians, the Labor Department, and given to the overburdened Department of Health. It left the ladies of the League hotly determined to act as law enforcers in their private capacity as consumers. Within a brief period they had drawn up a rigid set of minimum standards and pledged themselves to buy only from those department stores—there were eight at that time—which met these standards for their workers. Here are some of their demands—called revolutionary then, deemed elementary now:

> A fair house is one in which equal pay is given for work of equal value, irrespective of sex, . . . in which the minimum wages are six dollars a week for experienced, adult workers.
>
> In which wages are paid by the week.
>
> In which the minimum wages of cash girls are two dollars per week.
>
> In which the hours from 8 A.M. to 6 P.M. constitute the working day, and a general half-holiday is given on one day of each week during at least two summer months.
>
> In which no children under fourteen years of age are employed.

In 1906, after fifteen years, the League stopped to take stock, and found that fifty-one stores were on the "White List," while the standards had been leveled up rather than down. Six dollars still remained the minimum wage, but cash children had been raised to $2.50 a week. The hours stayed the same, but five legal holidays with pay were required and children under sixteen were not to be allowed to work more than nine hours a day. The League continued its original "pious hope" (even at this day it is nothing more) in regard to equal pay for equal work "irrespective of sex."

NOW, another twenty years have passed, and to-day the League publishes no "White List;" the need for that has gone, along with bustles and whalebones. Constructive legislation has removed many burdens from the shoulders of both volunteer inspectors and wise employers. A fifty-four-hour law for women workers was passed in 1913, largely through the exertions of the League and its Secretary, Miss Frances Perkins, now Chairman of the State Industrial Board. Children (over fourteen) may not work over forty-eight hours a week, and then only under rigorous restrictions. Sanitary laws are enforced in business places which far exceed the League's former requirements, with fire laws that go ahead of anything which the League considered necessary twenty or thirty years ago.

There are, among others, two department stores in New York City whose names are known in households from Maine to Florida; one is situated on Broadway, and the other on Fifth Avenue. Each is considered a leader among the great stores of the city. The League asked me, as its Secretary, to contrast conditions of twenty years ago with those of to-day for employees in these establishments. Here are some of the things that astonished me.

THE Broadway store employs, according to slow and rush seasons, from 7,000 to 11,000 people. Some are on full time, and many on part time. The wages of a saleswoman begin with a drawing account, or minimum, of $16 a week in addition to the commissions paid on the volume of her sales.

Every clerk who has been eight months in the store is entitled to one week's vacation with pay. After five years of service three weeks are given, and it is interesting to note that approximately 1,000 employees claimed this vacation last summer.

The store closes nine full Saturdays in summer; there are six legal holidays with pay and a half-day on election day. Except during the Christmas rush, no one works longer than forty-eight hours a week. Children under sixteen are not employed, and those between sixteen and eighteen attend continuation school for four hours (daytime) a week or go to the excellent co-operative high school, which alternates a week's schooling with a week of work during the school year.

To one who knows the store only as a shopper the chief surprise comes in the

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provision made for the health and training of its army of employees. Eight or nine thousand people make up a fair-sized town, but few or no towns of that size provide their inhabitants with the medical care that employees receive by right of their pay check. Each must belong to the Mutual Aid Association, entirely controlled by the workers, which receives a fraction from the weekly wage for sick benefits. This fund is doubled by the management.

When an employee is ill at the store, medical care is given free, at clinics which rival modern hospitals. Treatment ranging from routine spraying of noses and throats to malted milk for undernourished girls is provided and accepted. Dental attention must be paid for, but at half the usual prices and on the employers' time. The cafeteria is a model of light and cleanliness, with wholesome food at minimum rates. There are rest-rooms available for every clerk for two periods of fifteen minutes mornings and afternoons. Adjacent are the book-shelves and easy chairs of a reading and circulating library.

The training department arranges classes for all grades of employees, with emphasis, of course, on the rookie. When Anna Jones comes for a selling job, she is first given a simple completion test to fill in. It is so simple that it looks like a joke, and the interesting thing about it is that 5 per cent fail to make a 33 per cent passing grade on such sentences as, "A home is —— merely a place —— one —— live —— comfortably;" or, "It is sometimes —— to —— between two —— of action."

Once past this easy obstacle, Anna goes for a medical examination, and finally becomes an entrant in the course for explaining the making of sales checks, exchanges, refunds, etc. There are special classes covering company policies and service features, as well as specialized courses in merchandise.

The planning department, a division of research and methods, is proud of its work on the design and standardization of chairs and coat and hat lockers, and especially on desks for cash girls in the pneumatic-tube rooms. This last is a model of planning based on careful time studies. It is possible, because it has been done, for a girl to make change 300 times in one hour—four seconds to check the cash slip, make the change, and send back the holder being her top speed. The girl who does this for eight hours of the day seems no more than normally tired at the end of the week. It would be worth while to keep her under observation to learn, if possible, what sort of mind she has, and what effect the constant addition and subtraction has on her nerves. In studying stores I saw how difficult it is to make the human equation measure up to the mechanical. It is the basic problem in management, I suppose, to get the machinery geared to the people who must run it. When it comes to delivering 4,000 bulky articles from the furniture department in one day, as happened recently, or a total from the whole store of 9,000,000 purchases in one year, then it is a difficult task to keep the wheels from going round too fast for the men and women who tend them, and to make the rank and file able to keep up with the machine.

When I walked up Fifth Avenue to the other store, it was, so far as its population of 2,000 employees is concerned, like moving from a town to a village.

Here the salespeople no longer work on the commission basis. All that has been changed, and the minimum wage paid to adult experienced saleswomen is $20 a week, a rise of $14 over the "fair" standard hoped for twenty years ago. Even the youngsters of fifteen are paid $10 a week, and the store provides the continuation training of four hours a week on its own time. It is optional whether employees shall belong to the Mutual Welfare Association, but the large majority do belong. A savings-account system is fostered by the management, and a vigorous interest in recreation and health is manifest. There are both hospital and dental clinics, and a chiropodist who tends to weary feet at so tiny a charge that it seems an economic luxury to go to him.

The employees' convenience and pleasure are served by a sun-parlor, a roof court with easy chairs and awnings, an open-air handball court where juniors shout at their play after the morning continuation school period; by a cafeteria where there is no clatter of trays and dishes; by six employees' parties in the assembly hall throughout the year, with supper served by the firm; by a spacious library—the most expensive comforts in all New York, provided as a matter of business efficiency by employers who pride themselves on knowing their job.

The vivid, alert woman at the head of the training department explained to me this careful personnel work of the store from a new angle. She spoke of the standardization of the majority of merchandise sold in all of the half-dozen high-price stores along the avenue, of which this was one. Each of them also maintains a comparative shopping bureau by which prices are standardized. That leaves only service, in which competition is keen. "You can buy the same stocking for $2.75 here as in So-and-So's, or in Blank & Blank's," said she, naming different competitors; "you can even occasionally get a copy of the same model dress. What are we to do to make you want to come here rather than to any other shop? We want you as a regular customer, not as an occasional purchaser; and to get you we must give better service than you can get at the other stores. We can't do that unless our salespeople are intelligent and contented, and have a decent standard of living of their own."

The "floor-walker," with his long-tailed coat and solemn mien, has passed from the scene. The "section-manager" has taken his place. He is the fount of all authority and the well of wisdom for the "sales-person." She consults him on every imaginable difficulty and turns to him for all the manifold permissions which hedge the life of an employee in a great organization. He reports to his service manager, who in turn reports to the senior service manager. The hierarchy extends all the way up to the president of the Board of Directors.

What does this regimented scheme of organization do to the spirit of the "common soldier"—the rank and file? Is it elastic enough to stretch to the individual's need for adjustment he so seldom receives and the lack of which the private soldier so often resents?

Are the department stores acting as public service organizations in cultivating and training their constantly changing armies along these lines? Are they a factor for good in the social life of the community by reason of their care for the physical and recreational well-being of the thousands who "only stand and serve"? Or, on the other hand, is the individual driven too hard by the machine?

These questions, even unformulated, could hardly have lurked in the minds of those good ladies of the Consumers' League who set out so long ago to remedy the "wrongs" of the girls behind the counter. The problem was quite simply then one of abnormally low wages and dismally long hours. It has shifted now (I am, of course, speaking only of the better-class organizations) to that of mass supervision, with its increased demands for pleasant and efficient service towards thousands, where in the old days the clerks dealt only with hundreds. What chance does quantity distribution leave for individual initiative, relaxation, or change?

The problem is more subtle than the earlier one. It is serious enough to challenge consideration.

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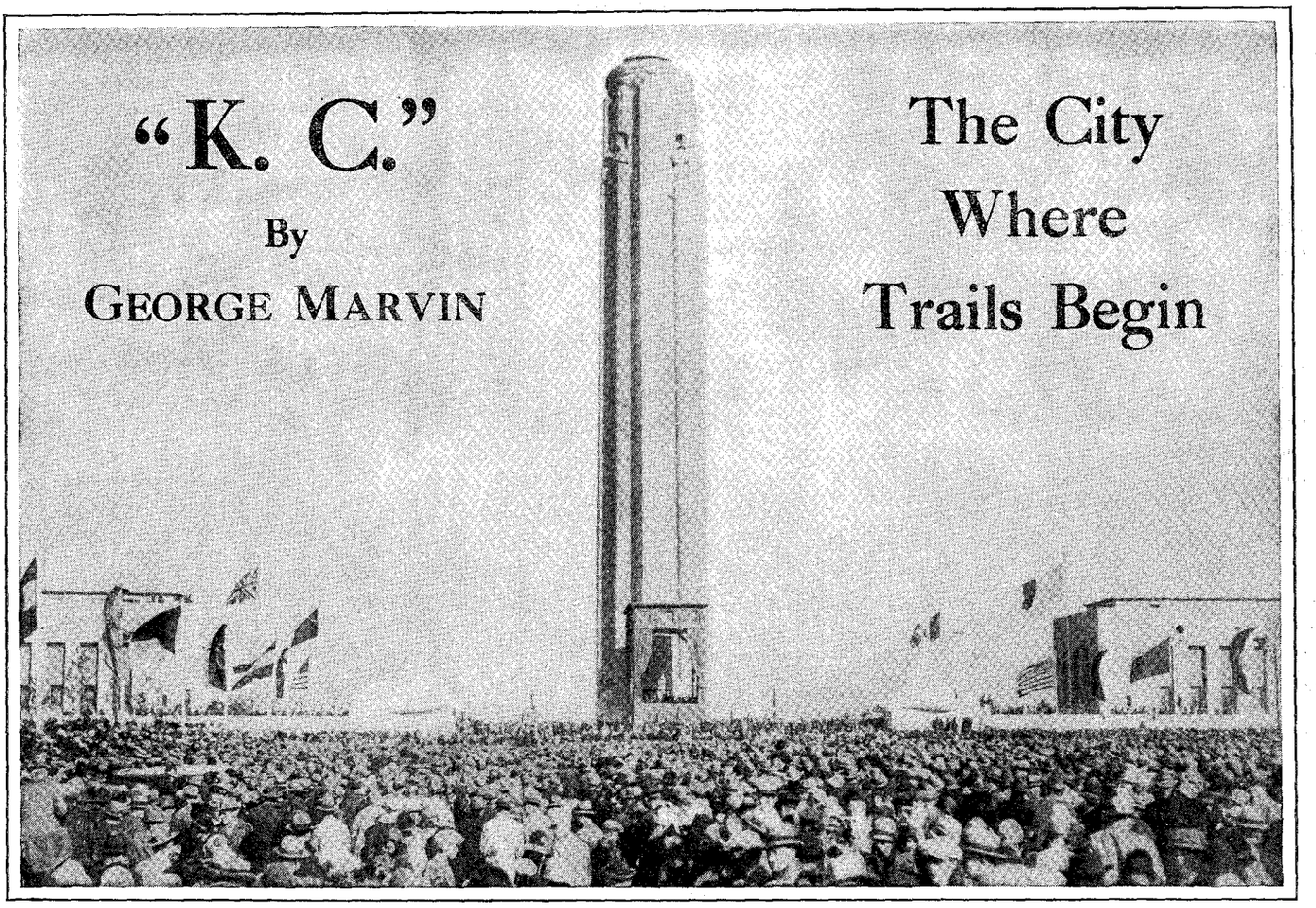
# "K. C."

## The City Where Trails Begin

By

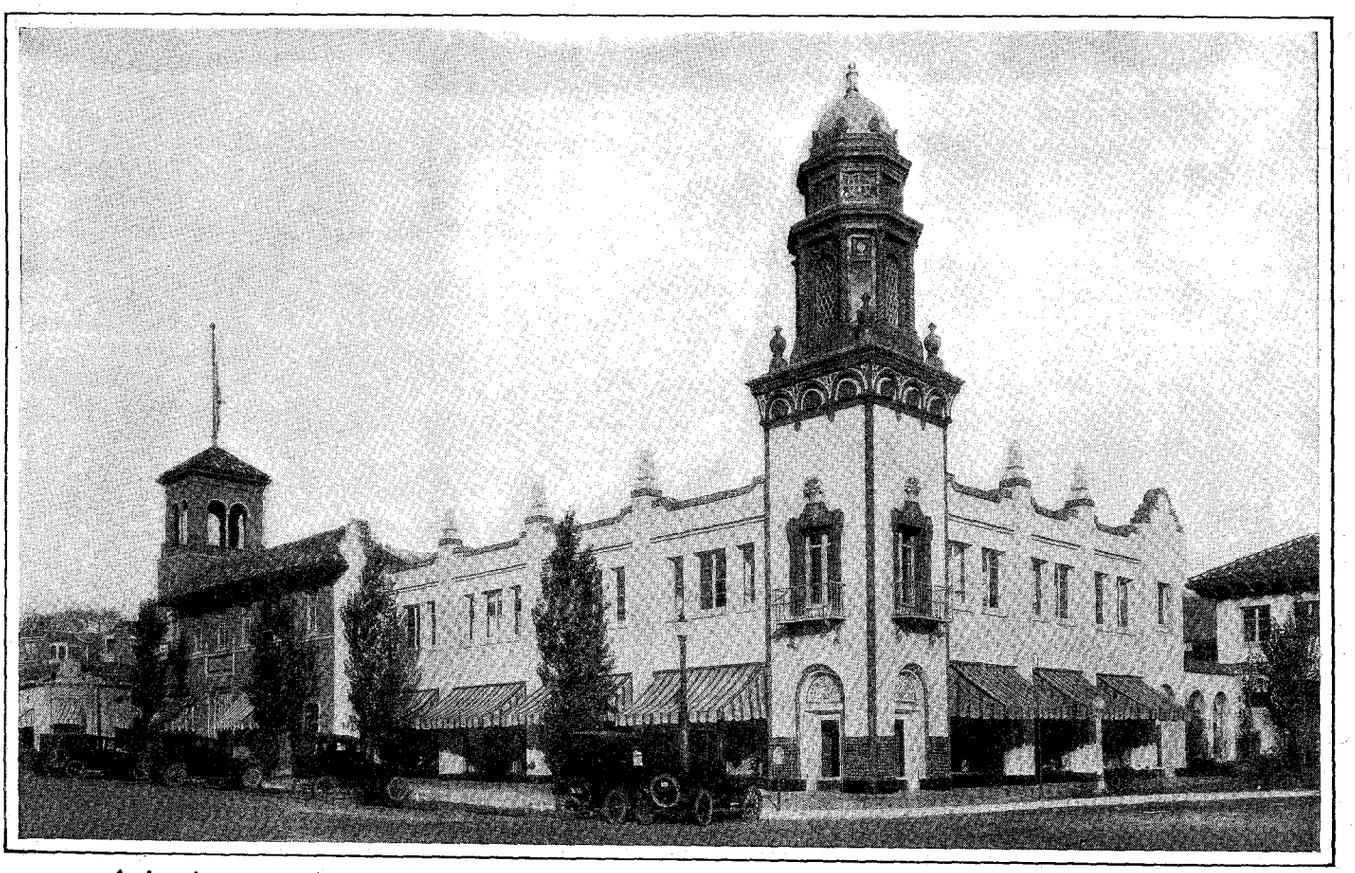
GEORGE MARVIN



Wide World

**A beacon to light for this and for coming generations the pathway to peace**

FROM Missouri, but towards Kansas, is Kansas City. It faces the setting sun. The money and the thought and the urge of it run out westward, and from the west and the southwest flow back the main currents of its commercial life. On the Mississippi-River (eastern) boundary of the State St. Louis dominates more than half-way across Missouri; but, solidly built on its Missouri-River (western) edge, nothing stops Kansas City all the way west into Colorado until it hits the market watershed of the Rockies and the hoop-skirts of Denver's trade area—and even then



**A shopping center with no billboards and where even the window cards are subject to the approval of the lessor**



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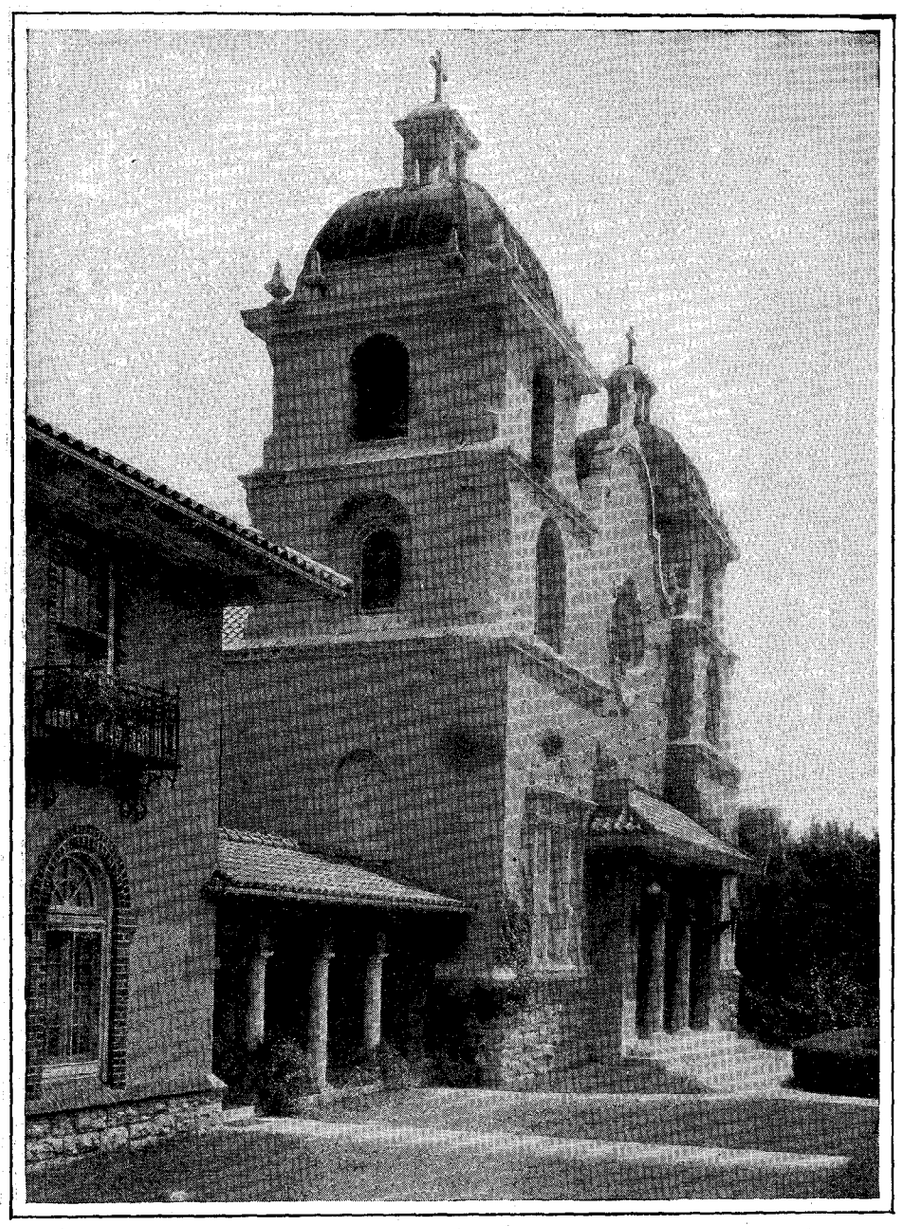

**The Spanish missions of the far Southwest find at the beginning of the Sante Fé Trail in Kansas City architectural symbols of their faith**

it keeps right on going. Southwesterly, by the steel tracks that carry herds of cattle to its—"second largest meat-packing center in the world"—packing-houses, and by the shiny-surfaced trails of the covered gas wagon, K. C. billboards blaze the way into New Mexico and through Oklahoma into the Panhandle of Texas. K. C.'s newspapers go clear across Kansas for breakfast. In the journalistic firmament of the Southwest the Kansas City "Star" is the center of a small constellation shining bright through the night of circulation-mongering sensationalism and daily advertising catalogues published as news-print.

In the ballyhoo of its boosters and boomers the fine old town of Kansas is being "sold" as "the Heart of America." Its citizens of that ilk, when leaving homeward-bound by train or motor car from Chicago or New York, or even St. Louis, like to speak of themselves as "going out to America." That's not so. A number of other cities and localities are equally cardiac in these United States, not counting all the other Americas. But a big American heart of its own has Kansas City. He who runs through the Middle West of United States America may here read (in fact, willy-nilly he has got to read) the usual jargon of the "realtors," the convention conjurors, and the tourist teasers—lift the headlines and the same text will fit any locality entered in the municipal Marathon—about the "biggest" and the "best," the "homes" and hospitals, climate and pipe-organ and sky-line.

"Market-Basket of the World" these gentry emblazon on the otherwise modest landscape of their alluvial valleys, proclaiming the pre-eminence of K. C. in the things of the stomach. "Most Beautiful City in the World" blare their colleagues; "First in Distribution of Seeds" blow other patriots; and "Third in Production of Soap" bubbles anticlimatically the paid chorus.

Let them rave. Concede the soap. As for the "seeds," there's some food for thought in them. Much of the rest here as elsewhere, in the language of prophets not without honor in their own countries, "is the bunk." If he who runs will stop running for a while where the clearer stream of Kaw runs forever into the muddy Missouri, dividing two States and the little city of Kansas from metropolitan Kansas City, he may read beneath the ballyhoo a better text, he will catch a truer note, discern something of the city's real worth in the world.

If he runs into K. C. from any point of the compass by train, he will fetch up in the Union Station—"third largest in the United States," naturally—and, passing out through the marble concourse, he will inevitably come face to face with the symbol of Kansas City's rightful claim to distinction, a pillar of stone by day and of fire by night, set on the city's highest promontory at the spot where began the old Santa Fé Trail, a beacon to light for this and for coming generations the pathway to peace.

Stepping from his train in this same Union Station not so very long ago, the deposed sculptor of Stone Mountain, confronting the Kansas City Memorial, saw in its uncompleted state, as he was reported in the Kansas and Missouri papers, only "a shot tower" or "a factory chimney." Other critics have found the high column and its surrounding architectural composition lacking in the attributes conventionally expected in structures commemorative of the Great War. Thus to judge it is to miss entirely the high thought of those citizens of the Missouri Kansas City—the old men who have seen visions and the young men who have dared to dream uncommercial dreams—who in their thinking have indeed come close to the real heart of America and set the symbol of that thought in the heart of their city.

In Minneapolis some other reverent thinking has planted in living ranks along Victory Boulevard thousands of young elms, each tree commemorative of a son of Minnesota fallen in the war. "Only God can make a tree"—and a man. Minnesota uncovers and bows its head. At Vancouver and Winnipeg and at Montreal, from one end to the other of its Dominion, the Canadian Pacific Railroad, in tribute to its war dead, has put up facsimile statues standing for sacrificial victory in death. A Valkyrie sort of angel bears aloft to a Christian Valhalla the inert form of a Canadian infantryman "gone West."

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In the presence of these true memorials, as at the grave of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington or before the Cenotaph in London, eyes go down, thought turns backward, the mood is *triste* and retrospective. Kansas City does this new thing symbolically; it turns its back on the war and faces forward, "heads up!" It takes the vast grieving and sense of loss, the gathering retroactive momentum stillborn of war, and makes it serve a helpful purpose. It takes less thought for laurels than for a shining peace. And so where once the stage-coaches started west on the Santa Fé Trail and where now the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fé starts to lay its soft-coal spoor on the self-same way to New and old Mexico, Kansas City has marked another highway. And this starting-point on the road to new and better thinking is not subordinated to the stockyards and the new reinforced-concrete structure of the five-million-dollar mail-order business. Of enduring stone, quarried out of the foundations of the Middle West, it is the most conspicuous object, the most distinctive subject, in the whole city. Wherever in their several wards of the metropolitan area—in Rosedale or Randolph, in North Kansas City on the far side of the Missouri, or Kansas City west of the Kaw—the five-hundred-odd thousand citizens of Greater Kansas City go about their daily jobs, whenever they lift up their eyes they will see, rising above the gasoline and the tires, the chewing-gum and the cigarettes, silently and serenely dominating all the strident proclaiming of the things of the stomach, this one high altar to the things of the spirit.

When the patriots of Kansas City got together to dedicate something out of the emotions aroused by the war which might most worthily commemorate those of their number who had gone before on the long trail and inspire those coming after, they sought first, not a plan, but a man—some cunning, big-visioned human agency who might most faithfully interpret the generous and forward-looking personality of their city at its possible best. The two million dollars necessary to the realization of the project in its entirety was raised in one week. That's heart for you, too. It's one thing to think or dream big; another thing to back up the dream or the thought in giving.

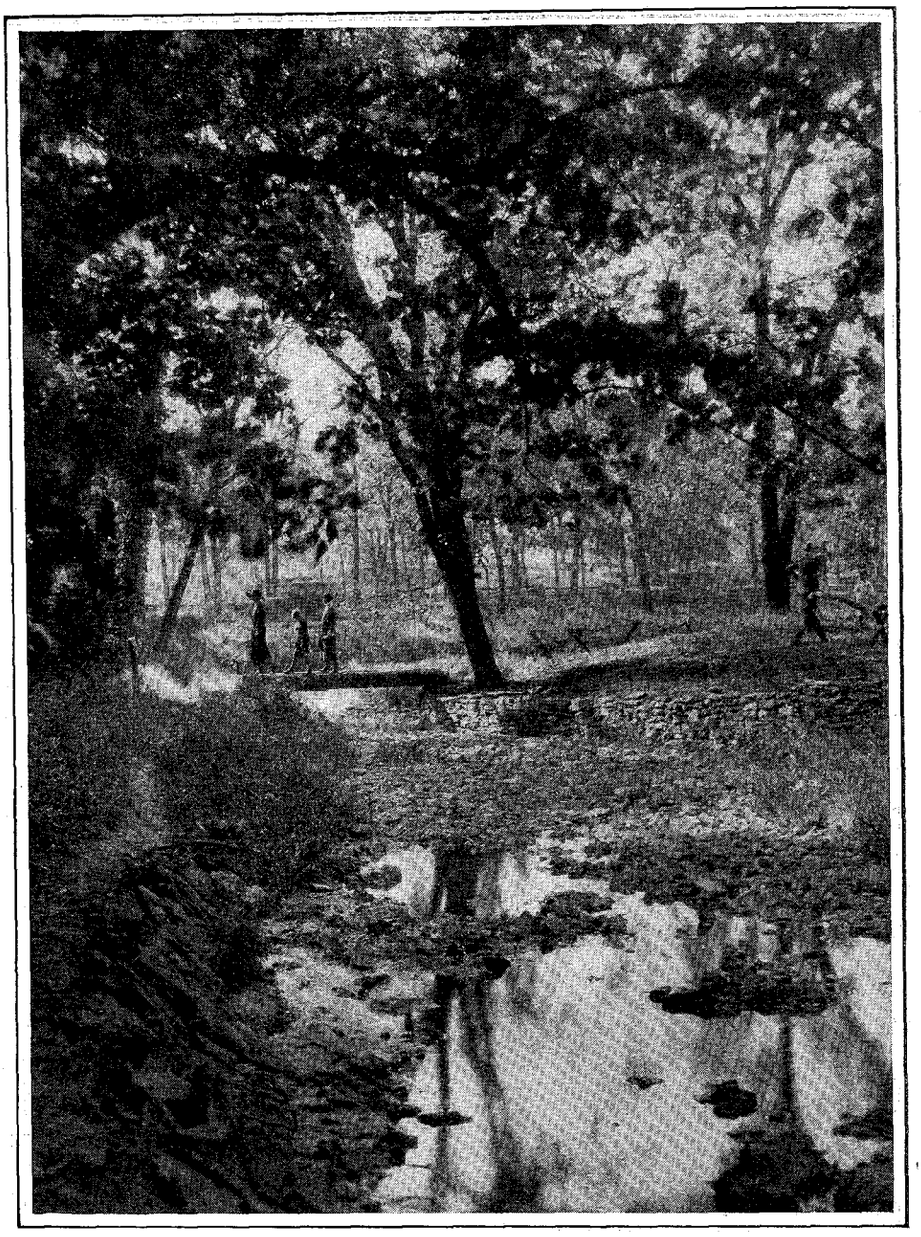
"How's the bond drive going?" says the visiting salesman in Kansas City.

"What do you mean, drive?" replies the local Missourian. "It was over the day it started."

All kinds of Kansas City contributed to that two million: Jews and Gentiles, wets and drys, white and black. No building, no hall or temple, said the Negroes; give them something they could look at *equally* with all the rest. The founders of the Memorial Association and the man they chose, realizing their vaguer thought in his definite form, have raised up, then, this altar that all the half-million people they represented may look at equally. It is the community's investment, an investment in an estate more real than the urban or suburban "developments" which also do great credit to the city. Two million dollars freely out of the pockets of Kansas City; and, no less freely, year by year, many more million thoughts out of the hearts of Kansas City. By contrivances of steam-fitters and electricians, unseen in the three-hundred-foot shaft of the central column, a white smoke will ascend from its summit all the daylight hours and a fire will burn throughout the night. And the smoke curling upward on the high altar that Kansas City has set up, the fire they have kindled in the heart of the city, not eternal but as everlasting as the patient faith of humanity, is intended to be a vital, living thing; a symbol, not of the inert peace that is less desirable than noble war, but a peace of sacrifice and fire.

This is the big, the distinctive thing in K. C., bigger than the ballyhoo. If you like or are so by nature disposed, you can see in the soaring shaft of stone only a factory chimney smoking with prosperity, the unquestionable prosperity of a great Mid-Western city, the one-storied memorial buildings on either side, and the buttressed wall forming the rest of an imposing plant. It's up to you, just as it is daily up to the half-million citizens for whom it stands.

Kansas City, "First in Distribution of Seeds"—and what of the Harvest?



**Rus in Urbe**
**This trail winds within the corporate limits of Kansas City**

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# The Book Table

Edited by EDMUND PEARSON

## Books About the British Drama

Reviewed by BRANDER MATTHEWS

HALF a dozen years ago Professor George C. D. Odell published his solidly documented, amusingly written, and superbly illustrated volumes, "Shakespere from Betterton to Irving," in which he set before us the stage-histories of the tragedies and the comedies from the reopening of the London theaters after the Restoration to the end of the nineteenth century, supplying us with ample information about the many modifications of the text, the mangling of the story, the method of production, and the merit of the actors who successively impersonated the more important characters. In his stately tomes Professor Odell did what no one had attempted before him; and he did it so thoroughly that no one will need ever to do it again.

Shakespeare is the foremost of the Elizabethan dramatic poets, but he had not a few distinguished comrades; and it is to be hoped that scholars, British or American, will supply us sooner or later with adequate stage-histories of the plays of Marlowe, who was Shakespeare's predecessor; of Ben Jonson, who was Shakespeare's younger contemporary; and of Massinger, who was Shakespeare's follower (and imitator). Here in New York a century ago Edmund Kean acted Barrabas in Marlowe's "Jew of Malta;" in London three-quarters of a century ago Charles Dickens acted Bobadil in Jonson's "Every Man in His Humor;" and in New York again half a century ago both Edwin Booth and E. L. Davenport acted Sir Giles Overreach in Massinger's "New Way to Pay Old Debts"—which Mr. Walter Hampden has recently promised to revive for us.

But the stage-history of the plays traditionally credited to Beaumont and Fletcher would be at least as interesting as that of the plays of Marlowe or of Jonson or of Massinger; and it is the most interesting period in the stage-history of the Beaumont and Fletcher plays that Dr. Arthur Colton Sprague has chosen to consider in the beautifully printed volume recently published by the Harvard University Press.[1] Dr. Sprague has limited his researches to the Restoration—that is to say, that he begins his story with the organization of Davenant's company in 1660, after the dark days of the drama under the Commonwealth, and he closes his narrative with the death of Betterton in 1710. It was in these decades that the Beaumont and Fletcher plays had their greatest popularity in the playhouse. For the playgoers of those decades they were more pleasing than were the tragedies and comedies of Shakespeare. In the first three years after the reopening of the theaters twenty-four of the Beaumont and Fletcher pieces were produced, apparently without alteration; and in these same years only eight of Shakespeare's comedies and tragedies were seen on the stage.

Throughout the period Dr. Sprague is dealing with there were many more performances of the Beaumont and Fletcher plays than of the Shakespeare plays, perhaps too high-minded, too austere, for the corrupted taste of the Court. It is significant that of the twenty identifiable plays performed at the Inner Temple from 1660 to 1688, there were seven by Beaumont and Fletcher and not a single one by Shakespeare. Dr. Sprague wisely abstains from going into the obscure problem of the authorship of each of the half hundred dramas, comedies, tragedies, and tragicomedies which are loosely lumped together as due to the collaboration of Beaumont and Fletcher; he has decided that ascriptions of authorship are beside his purpose; and he holds that the many characteristics these various pieces have in common are sufficient to justify him in continuing to treat them as a group.

Dr. Sprague has done well what he set out to do; and it was well worth doing. He is scholarly without being pedantic, full without being fatiguing, and cheerful without factitious liveliness. His bibliography is ample and his index is concise—and there are few things more annoying to a student than an unduly elaborated index. His illustrations are only a few, but they are well chosen. His book deserves a warm welcome from those of us who prefer to consider the dramatic poets as dramatists rather than as poets.

Professor Ernest Bradley Watson's

[1] Beaumont and Fletcher on the Restoration Stage. By Arthur Colby Sprague. The Harvard University Press, Cambridge. $4.



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"Sheridan to Robertson"[2] is also a beautifully printed volume, and also from the Harvard University Press. It is the first serious and scholarly study of theatrical conditions in London during the major part of the nineteenth century—six or seven decades in which there were many richly gifted actors and actresses and not a single dramatist of genuine ability. To measure the penury of this period we have only to call the roll of its most popular playwrights—Reynolds, O'Keefe, Holcroft, Douglas Jerrold, Sheridan Knowles, Boucicault, Buckstone, Planché, Bulwer Lytton, Charles Reade, and Tom Taylor; the majority of these are forgotten to-day, and the minority, if remembered at all, are remembered chiefly for their non-dramatic work. The reasons for this appalling poverty are not easy to declare; and Professor Watson's explanation does not seem to me wholly satisfactory. It is set forth plausibly and persuasively; and it is good enough as far as it goes, but I doubt if it goes deep enough.

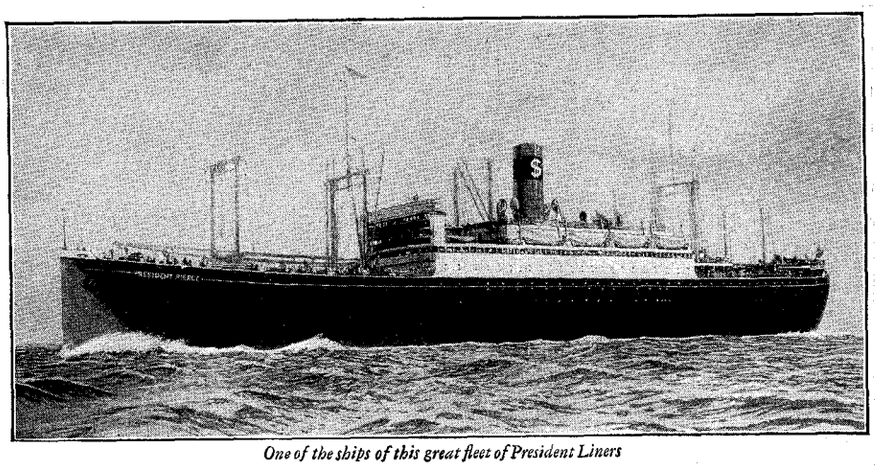
I am inclined to believe that the main reason for the emptiness of this period was economic—that is to say, the writing of plays did not bring an adequate reward, and the writing of novels did. As a result fiction flourished and drama died.

Professor Watson sets before us the history of the British drama from 1800 to 1865; and in so doing he gives us the story of the London stage in those three-score years. It is an agreeably told tale, based on solid research. It is made more illuminative by a score of well-selected illustrations—the last of which is a scene from Robertson's "M.P.," acted in 1870, still dimly remembered by the present reviewer across the gulf of fifty-six years.

In her conscientious account of Tennyson's plays Dr. Japikse[3] gives us most of the information we have a right to demand. But she does not give us all of it. For one thing, she fails to provide an adequate analysis of Tennyson's structure. That is to say, her criticism does not cut deep; and at its best it is literary criticism rather than dramatic criticism. She does not answer the question why it was that Tennyson, who ardently longed for success on the stage and who composed all his plays with the hope that they might be performed in

[2] Sheridan to Robertson: A Study of the Nineteenth Century London Stage. By Ernest Bradley Watson. The Harvard University Press, Cambridge. $5.

[3] The Dramas of Alfred Lord Tennyson. By Cornelia G. H. Japikse. Macmillan & Co., London.

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the playhouse—why it was he was never really successful, excepting only with "Becket," and only after that drama had been cut and rearranged and in many ways modified by Henry Irving. Dr. Japikse does not provide this analysis apparently because she has no intimacy with the essential principles of the drama, no understanding of its unwritten laws, no intimacy with the theater itself, which is the only place where the living drama reveals its vitality.

That Tennyson had his share of the needful dramatic power is not to be disputed by any one who remembers "Rizpah" and the "Northern Farmer." Charles Reade made a fairly successful play out of "Dora;" and a dramatization of "Enoch Arden" had a prosperous career here in the United States, with Edwin Adams as its ill-fated hero. Tennyson had the dramatic power which is necessary, but he lacked the theatrical skill, which is even more necessary (and which can be acquired by taking thought—as Victor Hugo had proved, and Victor Hugo had less true dramatic power than Tennyson). It is this theatrical skill which Browning also lacked, although it would be idle to deny dramatic power to the author of "Men and Women" and the "Ring and the Book." And it is to be noted also that both Browning and Tennyson suffered from the absence of helpful models. They were obviously patterning their plays on Shakespeare's, not on his closely knit tragic masterpieces, but rather on his loosely jointed chronicle plays and dramatic romances. Shakespeare had adjusted his plays to the special conditions of the Elizabethan theater; he had to do this, for he knew no other. But the conditions of the Victorian theater were widely dissimilar from those of the Elizabethan, and they demanded a modified craftsmanship, difficult to acquire and more or less disdained by both Browning and Tennyson, who may have had it in them, had they only learned how to construct poetic dramas; instead of which they contented themselves with writing dramatic poems which proved to be unable to sustain themselves on the stage.

## Fiction

**THE GOLDEN KEY.** By Henry van Dyke. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. $2.

Dr. van Dyke calls these dozen agreeable and interesting tales "stories of deliverance." Each concerns a situation of peril or difficulty, spiritual or material or both, whence the way out is not easy to find, nor when found leads always along the expected road; yet in each instance there is a gate toward escape and a golden key that will unlock it. The stories vary greatly in style and period. Some are developed from ancient themes—as those of Ishmael and Esther—and others are of the present day. One of these, "A Wilful Andromeda," invites a doubt or a protest. Girls, we know, do fall in love with some very queer specimens, but could such an obviously blatant bounder as General Earl really captivate a nice young thing like Nancy? He is supposed to be something of a spellbinder, but that is a kind of spell to which men are more susceptible than women. If Dr. van Dyke had even allowed him a fair share of elderly good looks—but he is bald, dark, pudgy, and with a fat upper lip! It looks as if the author's distaste for the type was so complete he could not bring himself, despite the probabilities, to allow him one alleviating charm. One feels (but sympathetically) that Dr. van Dyke jabbed epithets at his helpless victim in much the same spirit in which a boy might execute a gleeful war-dance on the body of a decapitated rattlesnake.

**CORDELIA CHANTRELL.** By Meade Minnigerode. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. $2.

"The strange Cordelia"—"the terrible Cordelia," as Mr. Minnigerode calls his heroine a little too often—is assuredly a strange girl, and at one time terrible to the point of incredibility. She is perhaps rather less fascinating than her creator intended her to be, but she is nevertheless a satisfactory central figure in what he has wisely termed a romance rather than a novel. Old Charleston in and before the Civil War is the scene, and Cordelia, a leading belle, has become before it ends a Confederate spy; yet this is no war story, but a swift-moving and dramatic tale of personal loves and hates, feuds and follies, loyalties and betrayals, among an interesting group of people against a narrow but highly pictorial background. Style and story are in strong contrast to the general output of novels, and though the book can scarcely be counted important, it is eminently readable.

## Children's Books

**IN THE HEART OF THE EVERGLADES.** By Kirk Munroe. The W. A. Wilde Company, Boston. $1.50.

It will be a pleasure to many "old boys" to see a new story by one of their favorite writers. The Florida depicted is of the era when winter sun-hunters were few and tourists unknown. The plot involves disputes between Seminoles and whites and has exciting incidents.

**THE BALLOON BOYS.** By N. L. Jorgensen and S. T. Moore. Harcourt, Brace & Co., New York. $2.

Captain Moore is a balloon expert and Mr. Jorgensen is an experienced story-teller. Boys will be surprised to find how much there is exciting and interesting about balloons even in these days of airplanes and dirigibles.

**ADVENTURES OF A YOUNGER SON.** By Edward John Trelawny. Harcourt, Brace & Co., New York. $2.

The fact that Trelawny was the associate of Shelley and Byron probably gave



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his boastful account of his wild adventures on sea and land aid in claiming a place in this branch of literature. Read now, it seems bombastic and old-fashioned—something like Captain Marryat with the fun left out. It is here condensed for boys and girls by Mr. Clarence Stratton.

## Literature

**AMERICAN LITERATURE.** (Complete Edition.) Texts Selected and Edited by Robert Shafer, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Literature, University of Cincinnati. Doubleday, Page & Co., New York. $4.50.

A comprehensive anthology of American literature from Cotton Mather to Eugene O'Neill. Prose and verse, plays, essays, and fiction. It is, as the compiler says, for the student already acquainted with the subject; not for the beginner. The selections from Mark Twain are entirely from his "Life on the Mississippi." There is a classified as well as an alphabetical index.

**A LITERARY MAN'S LONDON.** By Charles G. Harper. The J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. $4.50.

Recollections of various sections of London, and of the literary associations of each—Dr. Johnson's London, Bennsfield's London, Walter Besant's London, etc.

## Business

**CARAVANS OF COMMERCE.** By Isaac F. Marcosson. Harper & Brothers, New York. $3.

Expanded from a series of articles that appeared in the "Saturday Evening Post," this book gives the story of the work carried on by the Department of Commerce for the extension of American trade. Under Mr. Hoover the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has developed "a ramified activity that does everything for the exporter except actually sell his goods and collect his bills." It has its listening posts everywhere about the world; it busies itself alike in reporting opportunities for the sale of goods, in suggesting new modes of inducing the reluctant to buy, and in discovering fresh sources of raw material. Evidently there is no task too trivial and no adventure too hazardous for it to undertake so long as the effort promises some reward, measurable in dollars and cents, to the American trader. Verily, we have traveled a long way from the *laissez-faire* doctrines of the Manchester school. The story is well told. All that is picturesque, daring, ingenious—and even something of what is humorous—in this world-wide campaign is recounted with an exultant enthusiasm. Old Homer did not sing with a more joyous satisfaction the profitable horse-and-armor trades that the shrewd Greeks made with the witless Trojans before the topless towers of Ilium. The book is a saga of the Yankee trader plus the paternalistic activities of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

## Religion

**HOLISM AND EVOLUTION.** By General J. C. Smuts. The Macmillan Company, New York. $3.50.

"Holism" is a word invented by General Smuts from the Greek *holos*, a (or the) whole. Holism is a philosophical speculation which views the cosmos as a whole exemplified and operative in small natural centers as empirical wholes such as we observe in nature. It is both a concept and a factor. In the latter sense it is the creative principle—the motive force behind evolution. The holistic tendency is fundamental in nature, and evolution is "nothing but the gradual development and stratification of progressive series of wholes, stretching from the inorganic beginnings to the highest levels of spiritual creation." General Smuts lays no claim to being a philosopher; and his book is confessedly no more than an introductory sketch to his subject. It would be well, however, if some of the professed philosophers could think as straightforwardly, express themselves as clearly, and show as exact a knowledge of the latest discoveries in the physical sciences. His concept of the cosmos carries optimism to a new height. The groaning and travailing of the universe, he says, is never aimless or resultless; "the rise and self-perfection of wholes in the Whole is the slow but unerring process and goal of this holistic universe."

## Letters

**LETTERS OF A ROMAN GENTLEMAN.** Selected from the Correspondence of Cicero, and Translated by Arthur Patch McKinlay. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. $4.

To represent political and social life in Rome and to show Cicero as a writer of familiar and humorous letters Mr. McKinlay has selected and translated some of the best examples of Cicero's correspondence. The publishers have presented them in a handsome book.

## Notes on New Books

**THE ALHAMBRA.** By Washington Irving. Tales Selected and Rearranged by Mabel Williams. The Macmillan Company, New York. $1.75.

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**THE DOVE IN THE EAGLE'S NEST.** By Charlotte M. Yonge. The Macmillan Company, New York. $1.75.

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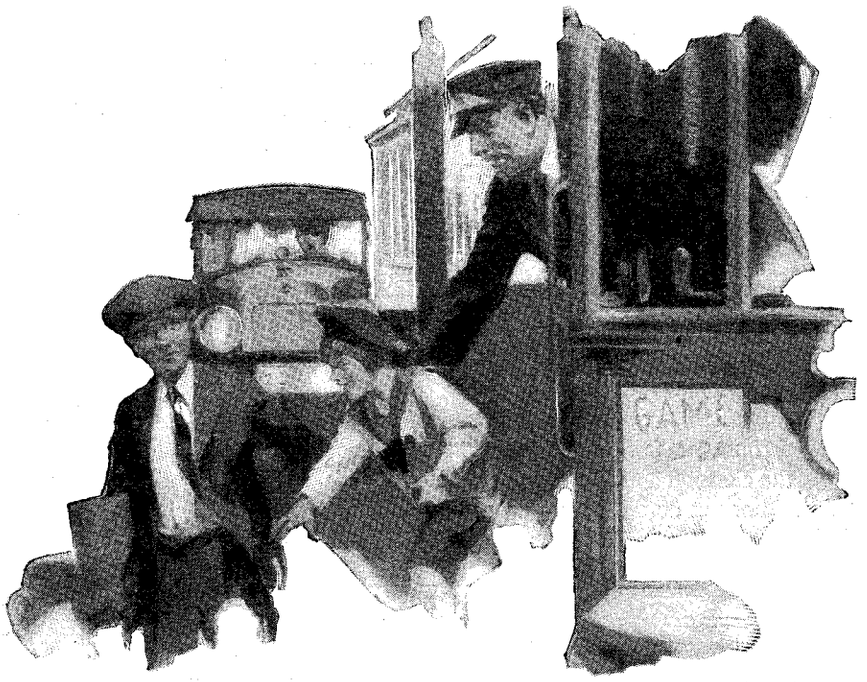

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# Financial Department

## Conducted by WILLIAM LEAVITT STODDARD

The Financial Department is prepared to furnish information regarding standard investment securities, but cannot undertake to *advise* the purchase of any specific security. It will give to inquirers facts of record or information resulting from expert investigation, and a nominal charge of one dollar per inquiry will be made for this special service. The Financial Editor regrets that he cannot undertake the discussion of more than five issues of stocks or bonds in reply to any one inquirer. All letters should be addressed to THE OUTLOOK FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT, 120 East 16th Street, New York, N. Y.

## Our Own Horn

A MODEST tooting of our own horn may not be disturbing to the friends of this department at this time, the closing of a calendar year. We do not want to be immodest, nor yet do we want to let the occasion pass without an intimate word or two to the unseen readers who, with more or less profit to themselves, read these pages every fortnight.

First, as to what this department is *not*.

It is not a *news* department. Here we make no attempt to chronicle new offerings of securities, except as our advertisers may from time to time buy space for that purpose. Nor do


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IN the years—now 45 years—since the Investment House of S. W. STRAUS & CO. was founded in 1882—

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we try to report the current changes and tendencies in money rates, the flow of gold, the actions and reactions of credits and borrowings of nations, banks, and speculators. We feel that those matters are well handled by the newspapers and by special financial journals and by special departments in monthly and weekly magazines. This whole field of financial and investment news we dismiss from our consideration—not because it is unimportant, but because our function is a different one.

This department is not a *prophesying* department. We believe that it may be possible by charting the present and the past to project a line into the future which will indicate with a reasonable degree of probability what the future is likely to bring. But this function we leave to those so inclined. In so doing we are conscious of no particular sense of superiority, unless it be that feeling of relief that comes from not doing that which one is distinctly unqualified to do.

Passing from the negative to the positive. The program of this department rests on certain principles which, while we have touched on them from time to time, might well now be stated for the benefit of any who chance to be interested.

The fundamental purpose of this department is to expound the principles of sound investing. The method which it uses in accomplishing this purpose is, as every reader well knows, to discuss various phases of investing and problems that bear more or less directly on investing; to answer questions of correspondents; to print from time to time letters to and from correspondents on subjects of more than individual interest.

Nothing is further from our aim, in the pursuit of this object, than to set up either as an oracle or a prophet, or to try to do people's thinking for them, or to hope that people will follow our suggestions because they come from a respectable source. If people are to make safe investments, they must do it themselves, on their own mature judgment, in the light of ascertained fact and experienced comment on such fact. Now and again a reader writes us that he has been so successful in following our advice that he wants some more of it. We feel flattered, but then we feel slightly uncomfortable. Of course, in spite of ourselves, we do emit advice; but we try not to. Our desire is to let the investor advise himself.

Guidance, not dogmatic advice, is our principle.

Aside from any merit which our guidance may have, one reason why this de-


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# Facts For Investors

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*The Outlook's Financial Service Department*

THE OUTLOOK
120 East 16th Street, New York

partment seems to be useful is that the average investor has not readily accessible to hand the financial and statistical data with which we are equipped. In these days information about stocks and bonds and corporations is fairly voluminous. The professional banker, broker—and financial editor—has to have at his command at least three ponderous books on industrials, rails, and public utilities. He must also see regularly one or more reliable daily digest services in which official and unofficial news of corporations is compiled. In addition, equally important but more intangible, he must have responsible contacts with men and institutions to whom he can go for facts which are not included in the regular services. All these resources are rarely open to the average investor.

What has just been said should not be taken to mean that the financial editor can find out about everything. Most unfortunately, he cannot. Were he equipped with wings, he might, but, relying necessarily on letters of inquiry and the telephone, and having no inquisitorial powers, he cannot compel reluctant corporations to disgorge facts. And the irony of it is that the more reluctant a corporation is in this respect, usually the worse it is and the more the inquirer clamors for the truth.

As time goes on it seems to us that more and more of our readers are utilizing this department, and, when so doing, are making us their financial father confessor. This, we feel, is as it ought to be. No man and no institution can expect to give wise counsel unless there is first set up a relationship of trust and frankness. We fear that perhaps some have been deterred from using this department by the thought that their names or identities might be revealed. They will not be revealed. When a letter is printed, we take pains to disguise any identifying marks so as to avoid any possible embarrassment for the writer. And, needless to say, the original letters themselves are held sacred in our files.

In the last three or four years of conducting this department we have, it must be admitted, made some blunders which could not successfully be placed on the shoulders of the stenographer. We expect to make other mistakes, and we hope that they will be, like the others, of minor nature. We never, however, expect to make a mistake in what might be called *temper* or *intent*. When we begin to do that, we shall quit.

A final word. Some of our regular and irregular readers have been good enough from time to time to suggest subjects in which they are particularly interested—subjects for extended treatment in these columns. We would like to have more of the same; and we shall try to find the answer—if there is one—to any reasonable question or problem that may be put.

W. L. S.

## From Inquiring Readers

WE incline to err on the side of conservatism when it comes to new companies, and especially when it comes to second preferred stocks. No reflection on any one is intended by this:

"Relative to the new issue of 7 per cent cumulative preferred stock of the Pennsylvania Gas and Electric Company, this company, as you doubtless know, is a fairly recent consolidation of various public utilities. There is no funded debt—only an issue of debentures ahead of this stock and the old preferred stock.

"The new issue is in effect a second preferred stock, and as such gives precedence as to dividends to the older issue.

"We may err on the side of conservatism, but we rarely ever consider a new issue of stock as of investment grade, particularly when the corporation is relatively new. The return promised is high, and it is high because there is a certain amount of risk. We consider the risk not excessive. If you can afford to take a fair degree of 'business risk,' make the purchase. If, on the other hand, you must play absolutely safe, put your money into something else."

A THUMB-NAIL sketch of a well-known public utility, written in reply to a question from a reader in Rhode Island:

"The Metropolitan Edison Company was incorporated in 1922; it is successor to the Metropolitan Electric Company, incorporated in 1917. It is controlled by the General Gas and Electric Corporation.

"The authorized capital is 500,000 shares, no par, common; 150,000 shares Series B, no par cumulative, $7 preferred; and 250,000 shares Series C, no par, $6 preferred.

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TO young women desiring training in the care of obstetrical patients a six months' nurses' aid course is offered by the Lying-In Hospital, 307 Second Ave., New York. Aids are provided with maintenance and given a monthly allowance of $10. For further particulars address Directress of Nurses.


# By the Way

THE traveling Outlooker reports a serious divergence in diameters among the portions of wheat cakes served with syrup and sausage on the trunk lines running from New York to the Great West. In some instances the disparity is as much as one inch, though there is no corresponding shrinkage in the cost. Since wheat cakes and sausage have become heralded as the pet breakfast dish in the White House, travelers should look for some message from the President on the subject. He might at least stir up the Inter-State Commerce Commission, or set the Bureau of Standards at work to bring about an equalization of the wheat cakes area.

Agent: "By the way, there are some old Roman remains at the south end of the estate."

New Owner: "Are there? Well, you 'ave 'em cleared away before I take possession."

The setting-up exercises which are broadcast each morning at 6:45 A.M. have been proved by test to be one of the most popular features of radio. The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, which provides for these programs, claims to receive about 2,000 letters per day from enthusiasts all over the country. Some are from all-night rounders, who say that they feel much better now that they take exercise just before retiring.

A citizen of Frederick County, Virginia, contends that the State should board rabbits, and therefore he should not be punished for killing them on his farm, reports the Shenandoah "Herald," of Woodstock, Virginia. When he was haled before the county magistrate, he said that the rabbits were born and reared on his property, that he had fed them, or rather that they had fed themselves upon his foodstuffs grown on the farm, and that they were his separate personal property, and he therefore had a right to kill them whenever he pleased, regardless of any law limiting the season.

The Court told the man that the State, by right of eminent domain, owned and had exclusive control of everything in the animal life that walks, crawls, swims, or flies, and this being the case, the State had the right to make such laws governing the killing of its game as it might see fit.

All of which was news to the litigant, who departed from the Court's presence vowing he intended sending the State of Virginia a bill for expenses for the boarding of a certain number of rabbits, partridges, and other game animals on his farm since their birth, and he intended to see that the State of Virginia paid him its board bill for them.

From the "Methodist Recorder:"

Our Mrs. Blunderby made a remark that has charmed us all recently. She often does make such remarks, and this particular one came from her lips when she was discovered by Mrs. Perkins in our museum. A shower may have accounted for her presence there, as she had handed no umbrella to the man at the turnstile; but however that may have been, she was apparently quite interested in the Grecian Room, where Mrs. Perkins found her. "Fancy meeting you here!" said Mrs. Perkins. "I didn't know you were interested in things like these." "Oh, yes, indeed," said Mrs. Blunderby, with just a touch of hauteur, "I often come here. I just delight in iniquities."

It is not many years since the razorback hog of the region below Messrs. Mason and Dixon's celebrated line was the most despised and rejected of the porcine family. Now he has become its aristocrat. Richmond dealers are sending out circulars offering his hams at the majestic rate of $1.15 per pound.

Captain Loveless, relates the "Christian Register," had strong objections to what he called the "new minister's highbrow talk." The captain's own language was of a primitive and unadorned variety, and nothing pleased him more than a chance to translate the minister's remarks to another old retired mariner, Captain Williams. The latter was deaf, and the minister's voice often failed to reach him. One night at a neighborhood gathering Captain Williams, in the course of a vivid narrative, had referred to the "big fire in '81." "Was it the consensus of opinion," said the minister, "that the conflagration was the result of some accident or the work of an incendiary?" "Hey?" said deaf Captain Williams, turning to his faithful friend for light. "What he wants to know," called Captain Loveless, in his shrillest tone, "is whether the big fire was sot or ketched."

We are very apt to underestimate the value and importance of country stores. Garver Brothers' Store, in Strasburg, Ohio, a village with less than 1,000 inhabitants, does a million dollars' worth of business each year. The Outlaw Trading Post, of Winner, South Dakota (population 3,000), has a yearly turnover of $850,000. The Lyden Department Store, in the Washington village of that name (population 1,000), has a gross revenue of $750,000 per annum. Many such instances could be cited.

The psychology of propaganda was explained in this way by an advertising expert at a recent dinner: "A boy boarded an excursion steamer," he said. "Every bench and camp-chair was occupied. The boy devised a trick. 'Seen the whale?' he began to ask the excursionists near him. 'Tied to the pier on the other side.' His whale story was laughed at. But he kept on repeating it. Gradually, one by one, the passengers got up and crossed over. The boy got a seat. Soon he could have had a hundred seats. For the whale story had at last got in its work. Everybody had hurried off so as not to miss the whale. He sat alone for some time. Finally he hopped up and rushed to the other side of the boat, muttering, 'Maybe there is a whale there, after all.'"

G. A. Simmons, of Conway, Arkansas, writes as follows:

I've enjoyed The Outlook's anagrams. I enjoy also a good limerick. So it occurred to me, why not combine them—puzzle and whimsy? Here's my Olympian effort sent on suspicion:

HEBE'S BOB

—— son to —— Hebe said,
"Better —— thy hairs so red
As an off'ring to Style?"
Hebe —— with a smile:
"I prefer to —— my —— instead!"

Six words of five letters each are needed to complete the limerick-anagram. Answer next week.

Answer to last week's anagram: "Vales," "slave," "valse," "laves," "salve," "veals."



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